

Kent on Sunday

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North & West Edition No 595

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Bomb terror on our streets

Alert as 'terrorist' devices
sent to Army offices

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Festival told it must move on

Popular music event now begins
hunt for new site for 2015

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Tommy Sampson on suicide and strokes

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Soaring cost of the rain

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Spare a thought for our farmers facing a growing problem

IN AN era of high-tech gadgets, it is often easy to overlook that this county's historic economic roots dig deep into the very land on which we live and work.

Agriculture has so defined us, that to both the rest of the UK - and indeed further afield - Kent has the much over-used prefix of the Garden of England.

And because our towns and villages are surrounded by glorious lush countryside, there is an assumption that all in the garden is rosy.

The reality, however, is that making a living off the land, in an era of cheap imports and supermarkets who want only to pay the lowest prices, is an increasingly difficult proposition.

With poor timing, just as we, as a nation, seemed to cotton on to the fact that buying local is better, the elements decide to batter the land



Editor **Chris Britcher**

and many farmers are now having to count the cost of crops and animals literally drowning under the relentless rain.

In this week's issue we take an in-depth look at the impact of the weather on our farming community.

Keeping with the theme, we also have a special report on the impact the end of work restrictions for Romanians and Bulgarians will have on our agriculture and horticulture businesses. Whatever people may say, the reality is that migrants would do the hard work gathering in crops which British workers turn their backs on. That may now be under threat.

On a brighter note, the Winter Olympic Games is having a very positive impact on the county's winter sport facilities - with all of them reporting a surge of interest. We hope you enjoy that and the rest of the articles inside. Have a good weekend.

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Probe into bombs sent to Army recruitment sites

By Joe Bill

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A MAJOR investigation has begun into suspect devices delivered to Army recruitment offices in Kent, which Government officials confirmed as having the "hallmarks of Northern Ireland-related terrorism".

Packages sent to offices in Canterbury and Chatham this week are being linked to a host of other crude explosive devices sent to armed forces properties across the south.

Prime Minister David Cameron chaired a meeting of the Cobra emergencies committee on Thursday night to discuss the worrying incidents which caused major disruption.

Discovery of the devices sparked evacuations and the deployment of bomb disposal units.

The South East Counter Terrorism Unit (Sectu) is investigating a total of seven packages that were sent to offices including Oxford, Slough, Brighton, Aldershot and Reading this week.

All involved the delivery of "small, but viable explosives".

The device sent to the army



SCARE: Police introduced a 100-metre cordon in Canterbury city centre on Thursday

recruitment offices in Dock Road, Chatham, on Tuesday, was described as a 'low-level' threat and has been sent off for forensic examination.

Authorities have since confirmed that the package was similar to one sent to the Reading office on the same day.

Then on Thursday a second device sparked panic in St Peter's Street, Canterbury, forcing the city's main thoroughfare to be shut and shops and homes evacuated.

Following the Cobra meeting, a spokesman for Number 10 said: "Seven suspect packages have been identified as containing small, crude, but potentially viable devices bearing the hallmarks of Northern Ireland-related terrorism."

None of the devices, however, were considered powerful enough to kill.

Although no group has yet claimed responsibility, it is thought they could come from dissident republicans opposed to the peace process.

Det Supt Stan Gilmour of Sectu said: "Because suspicious packages have been found at various locations, notes have been sent out to all the Army careers offices as well as the Post Office asking staff to be extra vigilant and look out for any suspect packages."

The Ministry of Defence has said it will work with local authorities to ensure the safety of their recruitment offices.

No-one was hurt in any of the incidents.

Council tax hike noddled through as County Hall tightens its belt by £90m

COUNTY Hall chiefs have rubber-stamped the budget for the next financial year which includes a council tax rise for the first time in three years.

Residents in Kent will be hit with a 1.99 per cent hike – amounting to an £18.56 rise for a band C property.

Kent County Council says this will bring in an extra £10m, easing some pressure on the cash-strapped authority which must make savings of £90m in 2014/15 in the wake of yet more cuts in grants handed down from central government.

Over the last three years, KCC has made spending cuts of £269m which has led to the loss of 2,000 posts. Ukip, Liberal Democrats and the Green Party joined forces to put forward amendments which would not lead to a council tax rise.

The parties also pushed for the introduction of a living wage, something also put forward by the Labour Party.

Opposing parties raised issues over the changes to Kent Freedom Pass

costs, where the £100 fee will double to £200 in September. For those aged 16-19 it will be £400.

KCC leader Paul Carter stressed the challenges ahead.

"The next three years are even more challenging as government reduces its grant to support local government services.

"Our endeavour is to maintain good quality frontline services to our residents in many new and innovative ways that deliver substantial savings and also maintain non-statutory services so highly valued by the public. These include the Kent Young Persons' Pass, community wardens and supporting the Kent economy to flourish and grow.

"Local government across the country has had to deal with significant funding reductions imposed by government in its endeavour to restore the public finances of this country."

The hike is on top of a 1.99 per cent rise in the police precept. More than 1.99 per cent triggers a referendum.

Joyrider show no remorse as he's jailed for stealing cars

A TEENAGE joyrider who stole a car and crashed it into a house has been jailed for 29 months.

Jimmy Avery, 18, of Woodbury Avenue, Murston, admitted breaking into two houses in Sittingbourne and stealing car keys, before making off in the cars.

In one of the thefts, he made off in a Vauxhall Astra, but was spotted and pursued by police.

Avery refused to stop and lost

control, smashing into a house.

Det Con Richard Allingham said: "I've rarely come across a criminal who showed as little remorse for his actions or as little regard for his victims as Avery."

"He was completely unperturbed when I challenged him about his crimes. He offered little explanation aside from the fact he saw an open window here or noticed all the lights were off in a property there."

Traffic cone flung onto road narrowly misses motorist

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a traffic cone was flung from a multi-storey car park, smashing through a car's rear window.

The shocked motorist, who was driving a silver Peugeot Partner Tepee MPV, said he heard what he described as young people shouting "yes, bullseye" as the cone broke through the rear panel of his window.

The incident happened just after 7.40pm on February 8 in Leopold Street, Ramsgate.

DC David Wells said: "Police are investigating an incident of criminal damage where a heavy duty traffic cone has ended up smashing the window of a moving vehicle.

"Fortunately no-one was injured."

Witnesses call 01227 868336.



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Crook back behind bars hours after jail release

A BURGLAR is back behind bars after he was caught stealing a wallet just hours after being released from prison. Daniel Reed, 35, had been released from HMP Elmley on Sheppey at 10.30am on January 3. But less than eight hours later, he was back in custody after being arrested for stealing a wallet and an iPhone from Morlings Solicitors in King Street, Maidstone. And on Tuesday he was sentenced to a further

16-month spell behind bars after pleading guilty. During a police interview, Reed, formerly of Quarry Road, Maidstone, claimed to have drunk four cans of strong lager following his release from prison, as well as a further seven pints of beer in a pub, and said he had no recollection of stealing any of the items. He appeared this week before Maidstone Crown Court for sentencing.



VICTIM: Claire Tiltman

After 21 years, first charge in Tiltman case

A 45-YEAR-OLD man has become the first person to be charged in the 21-year hunt for the killer of schoolgirl Claire Tiltman, it was confirmed this week.

Former milkman Colin Ash-Smith will appear at Maidstone Magistrates on February 28.

Claire Tiltman was killed as she walked to a friend's house close to her home in Greenhithe on January 18, 1993.

She had just celebrated her 16th birthday.

Nigel Pilkington, head of the complex casework unit for the Crown Prosecution Service's south east office, said: "The investigation by the police into the murder has been a lengthy and complex one."

"Following further investigation, my review of all the evidence in the case has now been completed and I have concluded that there is sufficient evidence and that it is in the public interest to prosecute Colin Ash-Smith."

Senior investigating officer Det Supt Rob Vinson, from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate cold case team, added: "Claire Tiltman's unsolved death is one of the longest running cases for Kent Police and has remained in the forefront of the minds of investigating officers for over two decades."

Both of Claire's parents have passed away since her death.

Motoring misery as hole appears in M2, but does it date back 1,000 years?

By Joe Bill

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AN ANCIENT chalk pit well, which could date back more than 1,000 years, could be the cause of the giant hole which appeared on the M2 motorway this week, causing traffic misery for millions.

Experts have been probing just how a 15ft-deep hole suddenly emerged in the central reservation of the motorway, between the junctions for Faversham and Sittingbourne.

The road had to be completely closed in both directions after the hole was found on Tuesday afternoon. It was only on Friday two lanes in either direction were available to traffic.

The delays were felt across much of east Kent.

It is officially classed as 'dene hole'. Dene holes are purpose dug shafts which drop down in a wider chalk cave. They are believed to have been used by our Anglo Saxon predecessors



HOLE: But just what caused it?

sors as a water storage facility.

Quite how it managed to suddenly open up again this week remains to be seen - although the wet weather is a likely culprit, with constant rain weakening underground formations.

Road experts filled the cavity, which measured 15ft deep and 7ft wide, with 40 tonnes of pea shingle to stabilise the area.

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "Geotechnical investigations are continuing to find the cause to allow the repair to be safely completed so the remaining lanes can be re-opened to traffic."

Dene holes have been found across Kent over the years, where underground chalk pits are common.

It is thought the caves in Margate and Cliftonville could have started life as a dene hole, while there are also sites in Challock, near Ashford, Capstone Country Park in Chatham, and one in Bexley.

Some historians argue that the holes are named after the norsemen who settled in Britain calling them 'Dane holes'. But others say the name comes from the Anglo Saxon word 'den' which meant hole or valley.

At the time of going to press, the Highways Agency had not announced when the M2 was likely to be fully re-opened.

Fears body found in dyke is missing OAP

A BODY found in farmland this week is believed to be that of a pensioner who went missing after going for a walk in October.

David Mirams, 76, was last seen on October 10 in a field by Old Road in Sarre.

On Monday, at 3.15pm, a member of the public reported seeing a body in a dyke on farmland near Down Barton Road in St Nicholas-at-Wade, less than a mile away.

Although formal identification has yet to take place, the family of Mr Mirams has been advised.

After Mr Mirams' disappearance, a major police search was launched, assisted by volunteers and members of Kent Search and Rescue.

A police helicopter was scrambled and a thermal camera used in a bid to find him.

Some 1,500 hours were spent searching and on some occasions up to 30 volunteers involved. It included searching farms and outbuildings, and using canoes to search streams and rivers.

Cause of death has not been confirmed.

James Blunt added to Hop Farm Festival

JAMES Blunt has joined the line-up of the new-look Hop Farm Music Festival in Paddock Wood.

Also confirmed for the three-day event running across July 4-6 are Squeeze, The Feeling and Paul Carrack.

It replaces the previous festival, by the same name, but has a different promoter and promises a different event.

Already confirmed is Beach Boys legend Brian Wilson.

The Hop Farm Festival was originally run by promoter Vince Power, regularly pulling in crowds of up to 50,000 after its creation in 2008.

Headline acts included the likes of Prince, Morrissey, Neil Young and Bob Dylan. But 2012 proved disappointing and the company behind it collapsed. Efforts to revive it failed last year. Mr Power says a rival Hop Farm Festival, near Tunbridge Wells, will take place instead. No details of which have so far been revealed.

See inside for Lounge on the Farm latest.

Union protest outside Saga headquarters

STAFF from motoring organisation the AA have protested outside the offices of Folkestone-based Saga over plans to float the over-50s holiday firm on the stock exchange.

Readers of Saga's magazine were invited to become shareholders last month.

Trade union group GMB said it is protesting on behalf of staff because the float, set up by parent company Acromas, would see, it claims, the AA left with £4 billion worth of debts.

Acromas, which is owned by private equity companies Charterhouse, CVC Capital Partners and Permira, plans to split up Saga and the AA at the point Saga is listed on the stock exchange.

But bosses at Acromas, which has yet to confirm the flotation, has slammed the GMB's protest at its offices terming their claims "bunkum".

A spokesman said: "Their views are complete bunkum. The fact is the burden of AA debt has fallen by a quarter since Saga and the AA started working together."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Treasury chief to fight case for staying in EU

CHIEF secretary to the treasury, Danny Alexander, will visit Maidstone this week to discuss growing confidence in the economy.

Economic growth is currently at its highest level since 2007.

He will also discuss the importance of links with Europe and visit a sparkling wine producer in Staplehurst, which is seeing

business boom. It supplies British Airways with wine as well as exporting to the Far East, Germany and France.

He will point to a study by a professor from the London School of Economics which reveals 5,800 jobs in Maidstone and the Weald depend on trade with Europe, and explain why he thinks the UK



should stay in Europe.

During his trip, the Lib Dem will visit MidKent College to meet apprentices and celebrate the 1,600 created in the area under a scheme by government and local businesses.

Further flood meetings amid relentless weather

WITH the wet weather showing no signs of easing, communities in one of the areas affected by flooding are being invited to meet representatives from the Environment Agency to discuss the issue.

A meeting of the Tonbridge Forum is being held on Monday at 7.30pm in the Angel Centre where representatives from a

range of agencies, including Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Kent County Council and the Environment Agency will be there to discuss problems seen since the wet weather started.

Future discussions are being planned in the coming months with those directly affected by flooding in the area.

...also

Sport memorabilia show

SPORTING memorabilia expert Graham Budd will be at Kent County Cricket Club's St Lawrence Ground on Monday giving free valuations.

Members of the public are invited to attend between 10am and 4pm at the ground in Canterbury.

Housing market figures

FIGURES showing the state of the UK housing market are being released on Monday by online property firm Right-move.

The firm's House Price Index will show movement in the south east market, giving an idea of the state of the economy.

Town vision goes public

A DOCUMENT setting out the 'vision' for Tunbridge Wells over the next five years will have its first week in the public domain.

Residents will have the chance to comment on the masterplan during the six-week consultation. See <http://bit.ly/MR0aak>.

Tax hike on the horizon

MEDWAY Council will discuss its budget for 2014/15 this week, which is expected to agree a planned council tax rise of 1.99 per cent.

Earlier this month, Medway said it had a £94,000 deficit and wanted to find ways to close that gap before Thursday's meeting.

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Profile

'I give a kicking to anyone who gives Thanet a kicking' says outgoing MP

After a brief but tumultuous spell that included the closure of the county's largest employer, Laura Sandys is stepping down from her Thanet South seat, but as **Marijke Cox** finds out, she remains the area's most fervent advocate...



FINDING out hundreds of your constituents could potentially find themselves joining the dole queue in the midst of one of the worst recessions since the 1930s would test even the most experienced of parliamentarians.

For a rookie MP, just nine months into the job, it was perhaps the ultimate baptism of fire.

Yet for Laura Sandys, the then-new member for Thanet South, that's exactly what she faced, as one of the biggest employers in Kent – Pfizer – decided to pull the plug on its operations in Sandwich in February, 2011.

Employing some 2,400 people, the repercussions, at the time, were unimaginable.

As the spotlight fell on the new Tory MP, there was nothing to do but kick into action in a bid to stop what was quickly leading to a potential economic disaster for the area.

Exactly four years on, with some jobs saved, businesses launched through the creation of the Sandwich Discovery Park, funding from government's Regional Growth Fund and fortunes, to an extent, turned around, Ms Sandys' "quick and hard" fight to salvage some sort of future at the site – and for the area – has arguably been won.

This huge challenge was perhaps not what she had expected to be faced with so soon after winning the seat in the 2010 General Election, defeating former Labour minister Stephen La-

dyman who had represented South Thanet for 13 years.

Nor, one imagines, did she expect her political career at Westminster to be so short-lived.

Last year, she confirmed she would be stepping down at next year's General Election.

The short-lived stint as MP has, perhaps, been mirrored in her profile. It's certainly lower than many of her fellow Kent MPs; the likes of Helen Grant in Maidstone and Tracey Crouch in Chatham, for example.

But reflecting on the last few years, the 49-year-old admits the huge shockwaves of Pfizer's departure has in some ways helped pave the way for a culture of opportunities in a constituency, which traditionally has faced many challenges, not least its severe deprivation in parts.

"Pfizer was a total shock and not

“I think it is one of the most special parts of the country. It's undiscovered, it's got unbelievable charm, interest, challenge and attitude...”

Laura Sandys,
Outgoing MP for Thanet South

how anyone would have wanted it to happen,” she said.

But she admits it has triggered a change in attitude.

“I think there is this opportunity culture now which is really taking a grasp. I think that's important,” she said.

Ms Sandys was perhaps always an obvious candidate for the route into politics.

The daughter of well-known Conservative politician Duncan Sandys, who, for a time, was Sir Winston Churchill's son-in-law, it would seem a natural progression.

She admits, however, it was something she had previously tried to avoid.

But after running two companies and working around the globe, Ms Sandys said she felt it was important to put something back into the community.

And so, moving to Ramsgate from London in 2006 with her husband Randolph, who works at London's King's College on humanitarian issues, her quest for a seat at Westminster began.

In 2010, she won the Thanet South seat with a massive 48 per cent of the vote; putting her in place to represent communities in towns including Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Sandwich.

“To be frank, in the past, I spent quite a lot of time trying not to be an MP. I was encouraged a long time ago but I decided not to,” she said.

“Later though, I'd had two small companies, the last one I'd sold and I'd done a lot of work internationally

and I just felt there was a need for me to try and find a way of giving back.

“And I couldn't have had a more wonderful constituency than Thanet with so many different issues, lots of challenges and opportunities – it's a very exciting part of the country.”

After her selection to contest the seat for the Tories, she learnt one of her ancestors had in fact been MP for Sandwich, back in 1608, and had built Northbourne Abbey, near the town, which later burned down.

“It's strange, when I was selected I didn't realise I had this ancestor who had been MP there.”

Politics, it seems, runs deep in the family.

Her father Duncan Sandys – later granted a life peerage and known as Baron Duncan-Sandys – served as an MP in south London for more than 30 years, stretching from the 1930s to 1970s.

During his political career he served as secretary of state for commonwealth relations, for the colonies and, later, defence.

For 25 years he was married to Diana Churchill, Sir Winston Churchill's daughter, with whom he had three children.

But the marriage broke down and in 1962 he married Marie Claire Schmitt – the ex-wife of Robert William Hudson, 2nd Viscount – and they had a daughter, Laura.

“I'm very pleased to have wonderful sisters who are grandchildren of

Winston Churchill, but I'm not related to him,” said Ms Sandys.

“What's interesting is the whole link between Winston Churchill and my Dad and our area.

“Because of all the bombing, Churchill came down here and seeing Ramsgate when it was being bombed during the Second World War had a huge impact on him.”

Ms Sandys admits she has fallen in love with Thanet, a constituency which has, in the past, received somewhat of a bad press despite its undeniably stunning beaches and seaside charm.

An area with some of the most deprived wards in the country, a school once among the worst performing nationally, and problems with looked-after children being dumped in the district, it's certainly had its fair share of challenges.

But Thanet, Ms Sandys says, is a wonderful place with different dimensions and a “great attitude”.

“I love Thanet; it's so diverse. There are a lot of really great personalities. It's not a place for the faint hearted, the towns have got totally different attitudes and traditions and it's exciting and really fun for me. Sandwich, Cliftonville, Broadstairs, Ramsgate – they've all got different dimensions.

“The people of Thanet have been the pleasure of this job.

“Really, truthfully, from any part of the constituency, the energy, the

attitude, all of those things have been really fun.

"I give a kicking to anyone who gives Thanet a kicking.

"I'm not having any of it. I think it's one of the most special parts of the country. I think it's undiscovered. It's got unbelievable charm, interest, challenge, attitude and personality; there is absolutely nothing boring about Thanet.

"There is a huge amount of real value and I really do pick people up on it if they start to say anything negative about the area.

"I think we've got a huge amount to offer and a long way to go to make things really sing, but it's a really exciting journey."

She pointed to Cliftonville, a town plagued with deprivation, stating that work was going ahead to create a conservation area and to obtain money to enhance opportunities.

She is clearly fierce in her determination for Thanet.

"I walk down the corridor in Parliament sometimes and I see ministers jump into cupboards because they see me coming with my requests for Thanet again," she laughs.

Ms Sandys stressed that having stalwart Conservative Sir Roger Gale by her side, in his position as Thanet North MP, has also helped.

While he represents a different part of Thanet as well as Herne Bay further along the north Kent coast, the two MPs share a common ground and similar battles.

"We have lots of common services, we've got Thanet District Council, the QEOM hospital, we've got the same GP commissioning group," she said.

"What's important is that we collaborate and of course sometimes we don't 100 per cent agree but 99 per cent of the time we do. It really is good to have two voices rather than one."

Paying tribute to Mr Gale, she added: "I have to say I think I was the luckiest new MP because there has never been such a generous Member of Parliament to a rookie.

"Roger has been amazing, really extremely special, and we've had a lot of fun, we've done a lot of things together and, to be frank, working together, it's a stronger team."

She admits, however, there have been challenges during her four years.

But these, she says, are the things she is also the most proud of.

Aside from Pfizer, education has played a key part of these challenges in her role as MP as she pushes to transform education in the area.

Thanet, like other parts of the county, has both grammars and non-selective schools, but with a high number of children on free school meals – an indication of poverty – and more mental health issues, schooling is more of a challenge than, say, in leafy west Kent.

"We had some low expectations of students, but that has changed and that is exciting to see," she said.

"Young people, their expectations being much higher, teachers putting in so much energy and enthusiasm, families realising how important education is to their children.

"That is already showing some changes and exciting results.

"You look at primary schools. Newington Primary School for example, has just done so well, from a ward which you would not expect neces-



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: The former Pfizer site is now home to a number of different companies and there could be more to come

Fighting 'very hard and very quickly' was vital to securing future prospects

IT WAS an announcement which sent shock waves throughout east Kent.

Pfizer, one of the biggest employers in the county, was closing its operations in Sandwich.

Some 2,400 people were employed there – the jobs of hundreds of other service industries were entwined.

Workers, families and authorities were in shock.

It was a huge knock to an area heavily reliant on the pharmaceutical giant as a catalyst for opportunity and stability.

Pfizer said the majority of workers would be made redundant over a two-year closure period, starting in February 2011.

Not only did it blow a hole in employment, it sparked a flurry of

house sales and a drain of a highly skilled workforce.

Kent County Council, district authorities and MP Laura Sandys jumped into action and set up a task force to try and secure some kind of future for the site and plug that gap.

It was a mammoth task and one with little light at the end of the tunnel.

Four years on, however, the Discovery Park – located at the old Pfizer site – is doing well.

Awarded enterprise zone status in 2011 by the Government, this paved the way for tax incentives for businesses who wanted to move there with easier planning and access to superfast broadband.

Pfizer also announced hundreds of the 2,400 jobs at risk would be

retained, providing an anchor for the site and to ensure activity would continue.

Add to that the successful Regional Growth Fund bid for £40 million – £35m for interest-free loans for businesses under the Expansion East Kent banner and £5m for improved transport links – and you could argue the future is looking brighter.

Sixty businesses are now located at the site.

Laura Sandys admits it has been no mean feat.

"We had to fight very hard, very quickly," she said

"The first 24 hours of that drama I was knocking on every single door – the Prime Minister, the Treasury, all the departments – and we galvanized a great team

to make things happen, including KCC leader Paul Carter who has been a great help in this.

"It was a total shock and not how anyone would have wanted it to happen, but actually what we've got now is a much more diversified group of companies, which is important. We've got a really energetic ambition for the area and that's not just the Discovery Park, that's right across east Kent.

"I think there's a change in attitude, I think people are much more up for things.

"There's going to be some new announcements and also about international investment at the Discovery Park.

"This will bring in investment for the whole area. I think it's going to be transformative."

sarily, due to its great leadership.

"Other schools are really improving and this is what we've got; an opportunity, a real legacy for young people, we're going to put them first."

The Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate is one secondary which has proved a concern to authorities.

Once rated among the worst performing schools in the country and previously put in special measures by

“ We used to have low expectations for our young. But not now. They aim higher. Teachers are putting in more effort and energy. It's exciting. ”

Laura Sandys,
on the challenge for local schools

Ofsted, it is still failing to see 40 per cent of its pupils gain five A*-C grades including English and maths at GCSE, the national benchmark.

Ms Sandys stressed the school has had some challenges but is improving.

"I think what's important is actually the feeder schools, so improving standards at primary level.

"Once we do that we start to ensure that the whole chain of children are going to have a much higher sense of their own self-esteem and their own sense of ambition.

"I think there is a lot of work that we're doing with early intervention so families who find looking after children challenging, who've got disruption in their family already – these are the families that we're putting in a lot of health workers to try and stabilise and support them.

"What we want to do is make families work and make sure that we put in the effort when the crisis starts and not at the point of crisis for the child.

"I think you can see some of the results coming through already."

With the work she has put in over the last four years, then, it will surely be hard to walk away from it all at the next General Election?

Ms Sandys announced at the end of last year she would be stepping down in 2015.

She cites family issues as the reason but refuses to give anything away when pressed on what that involves.

"I'm very sad I'm going to be leaving," she says, "but I have to make all sorts of decisions around family issues and making difficult decisions.

"No big decision is 100 per cent right, but there were enough moving parts in my life which made it very difficult for me to continue.

"It's one of those things and hopefully I've used my five years well. On behalf of the people of Thanet, I will be working right to the last moment.

"We've got lots of plans for the last year. I really feel we need to ensure that we keep ourselves on the map. I think it is crucial every politician knows what our issues are, what are opportunities are and they never forget it."

So is that the end of her political career altogether?

"I'm certainly a political person so I'm sure I'll stay in politics. I'm very keen to always help anything to do with Thanet and anything that needs support.

"I hope I stay in Thanet. I need to find a job, so I'll have to see where that takes me."

Asked what her highlight has been in the last four years, she says its seeing how work in Whitehall can help individual people in her constituency.

"There is a particular family who we supported into new housing and their lives were transformed," she said.

"It was so lovely to see the children's faces light up and the family feeling refreshed because they had a home where they weren't all sleeping in the same bed together, the parents then got jobs.

"It was a very transformative moment and this, to me, is what being an MP is about."

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STIGMA: Laura Sandys is proud of her fight while at Westminster to reduce the stigma attached to epilepsy



Banned from Big Ben as a result of her epilepsy

WHEN Laura Sandys became an MP and wanted to go up the mighty tower atop of which sits Big Ben, she was refused entry.

It wasn't for any other reason than the fact she has epilepsy.

She broke the rules, of course. She and a fellow MP – who was also restricted due to having epilepsy – would not take no for an answer.

To her, it represented how little profile the condition has and the stigma attached.

"You say it to people and they expect you to fall on the floor and have a good writhe," she said.

One of her battles through her position at Westminster is to reduce that

stigma. It is something she is particularly proud of.

"There are just two of us MPs who have declared we have epilepsy," she said.

"Statistically, there should be another four MPs with epilepsy in Parliament, but they won't come forward because of the stigma.

"We're very keen to try and combat that. I feel very passionately that it's not really had enough of a profile and people are concerned about saying they've got epilepsy, so I'm very pleased with the work we've done on that now and into the future."

Ms Sandys says she became epileptic when she was 23.

She last had a seizure seven years

ago and says the condition is well managed.

"What's interesting is that sometimes public services get very nervous, so for example at schools, if you say you've got epilepsy they stop you doing anything, because they're terrified.

"In a strange way it's not about people looking after you, it's about people allowing you to do something rather than closing you down in some sort of 'oh my God, they're going to have a seizure' way.

"Everything is over-protective.

"On the other hand there are lots of services such as referrals to consultants that aren't happening, so we're pushing for better services and more understanding."

Will traditional rivals join forces to defeat bid from Farage for seat?

THERE'S no denying that for the Conservative Party, Ukip is proving a real threat.

For Thanet, which saw seven out of its eight seats on Kent County Council taken by Ukip last year, this threat is presenting a particular challenge, not least because Ukip leader Nigel Farage is sniffing around the Thanet South parliamentary seat.

While Mr Farage, from Westerham, is remaining tight-lipped over whether he will stand in next year's General Election, speculation runs high that he has his sights set on the Thanet seat.

And it makes perfect sense too. There is clearly a groundswell of support for Ukip, the seat is not one of the many 'traditional' Tory seats (Labour held it prior to 2010) and, with the best will in the world, Laura Sandys has not established herself as one of the county's high profile political figures.

In fact, so concerned are rival parties, that Liberal Democrat and Labour activists have lent their support to the Tories – anything to stop Ukip getting in.

"I've always said and I'd say this to the next candidate, bring it on," said Ms Sandys.

"If Nigel Farage wants to stand at the next election, that's absolutely fine.

"I had a huge outpouring of support when he said he was going to stand, from Liberal Democrats and from Labour activists saying they would deliver leaflets for me.

"Let's be frank, if Nigel Farage wants to stand it will only be a Conservative that can defeat him. The constituency is fundamentally a Tory constituency."

Ms Sandys said if Mr Farage was to

take the Thanet South seat, it would be "absolutely catastrophic".

And to the voters who believe he can bring change, she stressed he's not offering much of that.

"He's currently campaigning in the north saying he wants to maintain everyone's benefits. Then in the south east he's telling everyone he's quite interested in cutting people's benefits, so he's got to make up his mind exactly what kind of party they are. At the moment they just look very irresponsible.

"One of the things that is fascinating, when you talk to people about it, is they really do understand being in government is not easy, being in politics is not easy and if all it is, is a wish list, that would be much easier.

"The reality is you've got to be grown up and I think it's crucial that we've got a really stable government that is going to take some really difficult decisions responsibly.

"But the difficult decisions we've already taken are actually starting to pay off. We've got 500 new jobs in Thanet in the last year, we've got a whole new energy to the economy. It's really exciting.

"The idea that we want to shake that all up – it would create real uncertainty and is a really bad idea.

"So I think we need to absolutely drive through these changes as they are happening, look at the great opportunities that have emerged and be optimistic about a really good future but not an unstable one."

There's no denying, however, people are frustrated with seemingly relentless cuts and some may see change as a way of stopping this.

"We've been in the worst recession since the 1930s and have started to see some real important movements towards real recovery and sustainable recovery," said Ms Sandys.

"I think it would be a dangerous moment to start trying to throw that all up in the air. While I understand people's frustrations, we've got to ensure that we stick with the course that is already delivering and will deliver even more for all of us."

She does not, however, play down the threat of Ukip.

"We can't underestimate how angry and frustrated people have been, I'm not trivialising it and I don't think it will be a natural flip back to traditional parties," she said.

“ If Nigel Farage was to run for Thanet South in the General Election and to win, it would be absolutely catastrophic. But as I’ve always said, bring it on... ”

Laura Sandys,
on the challenge of Ukip





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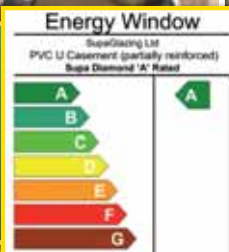
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Fears for agriculture grow as labour rules end for



NO LONGER TIED: Bulgarian and Romanian workers are now able to get jobs where they like

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Foreign labour shift could see workers shun jobs on farms

AMID the scare stories and negative headlines, the reality is that without a migrant workforce – primarily from eastern Europe – the county's agricultural sector would collapse.

With home-grown workers turning up their noses at the hard graft of working the land – mainly picking fruit and vegetables – British nationals account for a mere two to three per cent of the total workforce.

As a consequence, foreign workers have been warmly embraced by employers faced with local workforce apathy.

Yet those involved in the agricultural industry are now expressing concerns over the relaxation of labour laws for Romanians and Bulgarians.

Currently, some 22,000 Romanians and Bulgarians are employed each year under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS), many in Kent, picking soft fruit and vegetables.

With labour market rules now ended, however, it means those workers currently restricted to fruit and vegetable picking are able to seek jobs in other sectors.

"They might look for easier, higher paid work. Picking is hard physical work," said Kevin Attwood, NFU chairman for the south east region, who runs Down Court Farm in Doddington.

"Under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme they would come over as part of a quota, some of them would stay on farms, they get trained up picking, they stay for the season – so for about six months – and then they go home.

"We know once they come they have to stay here under the scheme until the end of the season. We know we have staff on site who will get up at four or five in the morning if needs be.

"But that scheme expired on December 31.

"Now they can come over and go into any job – so in a coffee shop or in the building trade.

"Bulgarians and Romanians might come onto a farm first. That farm will set them up with a National Insurance number, with a bank account, very often train them up and then they will just go and find a better paid or easier job.

"What we see it doing is undermining the workforce that we've got."

It does, of course, raise issues of the rates of pay offered to those working on the land. In addition, extra costs to retain staff will, inevitably, mean an added cost to suppliers like the major supermarkets. The question is, if UK produce prices rise, will stockists start being attracted by cheaper imported goods?

But the reality is that it is often hard, relentless work, which, given the produce's fragile nature and short shelf-life, means there can be no let up when the crops are ready to pick.

Explains Mr Attwood: "We would have preferred an agricultural scheme to have been kept in place. What we fear is we will be short of people to pick fruit, maybe this year, but definitely

“What we fear is we will be short of people to pick fruit, maybe this year, but definitely next year. Those that do come in, we'll have more trouble retaining them”

Kevin Attwood,
NFU south east region chairman

next year. Those that do come in, we'll have more trouble retaining them."

He stressed that evidence was being gathered to put to Whitehall in a bid to show the impact scrapping the scheme will have.

But with European elections fast approaching and the General Election of 2015 now on the horizon, it would seem unlikely there will be any dramatic U-turn any time soon while the topic of immigration remains a political hot potato.

And by the time evidence is collected, crop quality may have dropped due to the lack of agricultural workers.

Yet the common complaint is eastern Europeans are coming to the UK and 'taking our jobs'. The reality, of course, is somewhat different.

There is currently a government scheme in place aiming to encourage British people into the industry.

"We're trying to get some unemployed English people involved and employ them and we've had some measure of success," said Mr Attwood.

"But really, this type of work doesn't appeal to them. Two or three per cent of the workforce are English. They prefer other jobs."

A report by the Migration Advisory Committee warned that scrapping SAWS would trigger a surge in labour costs and lead to higher costs for fruit and vegetables.

It also stressed possible issues with employing British workers.

Professor David Metcalf, chairman of the committee, said: "The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme has not displaced British labour. Rather, it was the deficient supply of British workers which led to the expansion of the SAWS.

"This raises a thorny issue. Once a low-skill, low-wage sector becomes immigrant-intensive, is it feasible for the native population to regain the jobs?"

Mr Attwood said the farming industry is pushing for a replacement for SAWS to avoid the predicted problems of worker shortages.

While the agricultural sector is reliant on

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Romanians and Bulgarians, others fear what the impact will be if migrants do flood into Britain.

Believe the hype from right-wing politicians and the country should be bursting at the seams with new arrivals from Eastern Europe right now.

Six weeks on, however, there remains little evidence to suggest any sort of influx in Kent – a particular hot spot for political hyperbole due to its position as the gateway to England.

Despite the rising tide of panic ahead of January 1 – when work restrictions for Romanians and Bulgarians were lifted – public service providers say there is no evidence of any impact yet.

Of course, it's still too early to tell what the changes will bring, with authorities instead pointing to May 14, when official statistics showing the number of National Insurance applications will be released by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The non-existent tidal wave of migrants flies in the face of speculation by Ukup, which argued the relaxation of entry rules into the labour market would act as a green light to hundreds of thousands of Romanians and Bulgarians. This, the party says, will put a crippling strain on services and increase crime.

We contacted all the district and borough authorities, as well as NHS services and police, and not one has reported any noticeable differences in terms of Romanian and Bulgarian pressures.

Housing associations also stressed there was no change.

Sandra Thompson, from West Kent Housing Association, in charge of the Sevenoaks district's housing register,

Lifted work restrictions

ROMANIANS and Bulgarians gained the right to visa-free travel to the UK in 2007 when they joined the EU, but there were temporary restrictions on the type of work they could do.

Certain work permits had to be applied for and schemes were put in place, such as the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme, which had a specific quota.

On January 1, 2014, however, the temporary restrictions were scrapped meaning Romanians and Bulgarians are now free to apply for other types of work, claim benefits and have access to NHS care.

The Government introduced stringent rules surrounding migrants claiming benefits following widespread concerns that they would simply move here to claim money from the state.

There has been much hype over whether the lifting of restrictions will lead to an influx of Romanian and Bulgarian migrants.

But others point out that eight other EU countries, including Germany, France, Holland and Spain, also saw work restrictions expire on January 1 and there was nothing to stop Romanians and Bulgarians moving to these countries instead.

Influx pros and cons

WHILE there is no concrete data to suggest a definite influx to the county by Romanians and Bulgarians, Kent County Council leader Paul Carter commissioned a report last year looking at the potential impact.

The report stated that in the next five to 10 years, 8,600 migrants from Romania and Bulgaria would settle in Kent with a potential additional demand on public services – such as schools, the NHS and policing – costing £3,120,000 after deducting the council tax they would contribute.

But it also stated the net impact of such migration, deducting expected costs, would be an estimated £70,650,000 boost to the economy.

"However, a significant proportion of the economic benefit is likely to accrue at national level, whereas the majority of the costs on public services will be felt at local level in Kent," the report said.

Key findings in the report were that migrants from the two countries were likely to be "light users" of public services.

But it stressed that over time, pressure will be felt in some areas such as on primary schools, maternity services and A&E.

said people had to pass a habitual residency test before being allocated housing, so those who had just arrived would not be eligible anyway.

Hospitals also stated they had not seen a change in the number of Bulgarians and Romanians using A&E services.

A Home Office spokeswoman told KoS the Office of National Statistics and the Department for Work and Pensions would release figures in May, giving a clearer picture of the actual numbers arriving.

"This will provide the numbers of Romanians and Bulgarians in employment, together with the number of registrations for National Insurance numbers," she said.

Rob McNeil, from the Migratory Observatory at the University of Oxford, said trying to make sense of anything now was "difficult".

He said: "There's not really going to be any solid data on this for a year.

"For Kent, it's going to be quite challenging. You'll have the Labour Force Survey and might have something on National Insurance numbers.

"But someone may have entered Kent, got their NI number and then left the county. Or someone may have registered for an NI number in London and come to Kent.

"Even then, we know a large number of Romanians and Bulgarians have been coming here for a while. The restrictions weren't on the number of people who were coming through, but on work rules."

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Flooded fields – will the rain force up the cost of our food?

Constant heavy downpours are destroying crops, risking livestock and leaving farmers out of pocket, but long-term the outcome could be higher food prices, as **Chris Murphy** found out...

FARMERS say the relentless rain is already costing them tens of thousands of pounds and warned unless the weather improves soon, we're likely to see prices for their produce rise later in the year.

What's more, they fear if there is an impact on production later this year, the big retailers – such as the supermarkets – will simply import cheaper alternatives, putting a squeeze on local economies.

Many are seeing their weaker crops damaged by an almost constant downfall of rain, while animals are being moved to higher ground or inside to prevent them from drowning.

Robert Hinge farms 2,000 arable and fruit acres on Sheppey.

He explained: "The land here is very badly affected.

"Sheppey will see a lot of crop death. We will be looking at losing a quarter of the crop that is worth about £40,000. But the ground may not allow us to get much of the crop that

does survive because it will be too soft. "Replanting may be affected too, but it's too early to tell at this stage."

Steve Furnival runs Honeychild Manor Farm on the hard-hit Romney Marsh.

The area has struggled after drainage ditches were not cleared, making much of the area a swamp as the heavy rains swept in.

Mr Furnival, who farms some 1,500 acres of land, with crops including wheat, oil seed rape and peas, as well as a herd of 300 cattle, said the cost of the weather was already adding up.

He said it is still too early to put a total on his losses, but did confirm some £30,000 will need to be spent pulling up 50 acres of winter wheat "that is not going to make it".

He added: "I am not complaining, this rain is an act of God. But the Environment Agency has neglected maintenance for too long.

"The situation down here is that there is a lot of water-logging on the

fields. We actually have a very good drainage system right across the Romney Marsh area, but it needs looking after."

It is an issue which Protect Kent, the local branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, has already expressed concerns over.

In KoS last week, Dr Hilary Newport, Protect Kent's director, said: "Without this maintenance there is a real threat of the marshes becoming Kent's own Somerset Levels."

Trevor Richards is a sheep farmer in Ashford with 400 animals. On his 300 acres he also rents arable land out, and his fields are in a bad way.

He said: "It is a miserable time for us. We have a lot of sheep still outside but the fields are turning to mud. I have brought them in, but it's not ideal.

"It means we need to bring in extra food and if you have a lot of sheep it will end up costing thousands of pounds keeping them fed.

"There is also a danger some of the sheep could get a bit of foot-rot if left in

muddy fields, and if that gets too bad, there could be another extra cost."

Martin Twyman at Stodmarsh, near Canterbury, said he has written off a large field of wheat – again costing tens of thousands of pounds.

He said: "It is completely water-logged. There is about 10 acres here that we will probably lose. And next door to this field is an orchard of apples that was put in a couple of months ago, and we will probably lose about an acre of that too.

"Planting the wheat takes a lot of manpower to ensure it's all done right and that too will have all gone to waste. Seeing the crop looking like this is horrible.

"Perhaps in June we will know just how bad all of this has been."

Edward Hulme in Canterbury added: "My equipment should already be out in the fields, but instead the tractor is just sitting idle because my fields are now mud.



PROTECTED: Thanet Earth's 55 hectares of greenhouses have shielded crops from the recent heavy rain

Crops at Thanet Earth are safe and well thanks to hi-tech greenhouses

WHILE many farmers battle the elements, bosses at Thanet Earth have seen their crops kept safe under 55 hectares of hi-tech greenhouses.

Thanet Earth has become one of the nation's largest producers of salad items, and can grow tomatoes all-year-round, with cucumbers in production for 10 months of the year.

The huge establishment is even able to generate power for the National Grid, it recycles its water, has its own bee population and virtually

everything is computer controlled.

It takes most of the luck out of growing that conventional farming methods can't.

Their output is several million tomatoes a week, along with 750,000 peppers and 700,000 cucumbers, all packed on site.

A spokesman said: "The protected nature of the operations at Thanet Earth means that, so far at least, the site has been largely unaffected by the recent rainfall.

"A site of enormous greenhouses, the plants are maintained at warm, controlled temperatures, with a hydroponic water and feed system removing the worries suffered by others from extremes of weather.

"The Thanet Earth greenhouses each have their own reservoir filled by the rainfall collected from the roof. This is used for the plants, with the site having enough water storage capacity to be self-sufficient through the summer months."

« PAGE 19

"One was destined to be used for an early turnout of cows and their calves but it is a wreck. We cannot afford to put valuable livestock on this because they will be full of disease within days."

Yvonne Bates runs Becket Barn Farm on the Romney Marsh with husband Howard.

She is still not sure if the weather will cost them money, but added: "We have quite a bit of flooding and we can't graze our sheep properly. Some of the fields are completely underwater. We are one of the lowest points on the marsh and a lot of water does drain through this farm.

"It is so much worse for people who have the flood water running through their homes, but we are coping, just – by managing the situation and moving sheep when we need to and feeding them hay."

Adam Wise has 1,000 acres of arable land at the aptly named Whetsted Farm near Tonbridge.

He told us: "The fields down by the River Medway are completely underwater now and I am just touching wood daily that the water doesn't rise anymore.

"As it is, I have lost the crops in around 50 acres of land which is worth over £5,000 to us, but there is a chance it could be so much worse if the rains don't let up.

"With the situation here being repeated at farms, I would imagine across Kent and the UK, we may see a slight price rise in the shops later on, but this is a global market now, and any fall in supply here will be made up by other countries.

"However, I hear France is having a bad time too so suppliers may need to go further afield and that could put up the prices."

Catherine Langrish is the county advisor for the National Farmers' Union (NFU). She told KoS: "It is quite bad for farmers in general out there, but the real problems are quite localised and change from day to day.

"The Romney Marshes are the worst hit. They had a bit of a perfect storm over Christmas, with the power cuts that stopped pumps working, and then pumps broke and outfalls collapsed. All that created a real backlog of water which affected farmers quite badly.

"Obviously the autumn-sown crops have grown exceptionally well and were in good health owing to the mild winter, before Christmas. But we may now see some losses on lower lying land with standing water and groundwater flooding.

"I don't think we can put figures on the area of land affected and losses of autumn-sown crops will not be known for some time, that is, after

“ The fields down by the River Medway are completely underwater now and I am just touching wood daily that the water doesn't rise any more ”

Adam Wise,

Whetsted Farm near Tonbridge

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ROUNDTABLE FLOOD DISCUSSIONS

MAIDSTONE MP Helen Grant is planning a roundtable discussion later this month – with the key agencies involved in the response to the flooding able to put their views across.

Taking place on February 28, it will focus on the issues in Maidstone, which includes Yalding, one of the worst hit villages in the south east.

She explained: "I have invited representatives from the Environment Agency, emergency services, National Flood Forum, Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, some parish councils and the local NFU.

"I want to assure the public and communities affected that we are



doing all we can to get them back on their feet.

"Our agenda will include consideration of the Environment Agency's 2009 Medway catchment flood management plan, which sets out several recommendations for the areas most affected.

"These include new flood embankments, further upstream storage options, advising about home flood-proofing options, development of the local emergency response plan and improved flood forecasting systems.

"I am determined to learn lessons from how the recent flooding has affected local communities and believe this roundtable will enable us to be better prepared in future."



Retail analyst says impact will be long-term

RETAIL analyst Teresa Wickham said because the problems for farmers are now starting to drag on, there could be a knock-on effect on the supermarket shelves, but that will be in the future.

The Tonbridge-based consumer expert said: "There won't be an immediate impact on food prices because there is still plenty of food around in the country.

"But the bigger concern is the long-term effect. Because there are fields that have been flooded, it needs to be asked what farmers can produce from those.

"So this is going to have much more of a longer term impact than a short-term one."

the waters have receded. "A lot of beef and dairy cattle are housed in barns at this time of year, so they're warm and dry.

"There are plenty of sheep out grazing – some farmers may be forced to move them to higher ground if the land floods. They do cope with this desperately wet weather.

"With this persistent rain, sheep farmers cannot turn out ewes with newborn lambs to pasture as the young lambs may catch cold. Therefore those with earlier lambing flocks are keeping greater numbers of ewes

and lambs in barns; a bit tight on space. Obviously they're also feeding them, as they cannot graze outdoors.

"This obviously costs any sheep farmer more for the food. Mild weather is a bonus though, as the animals won't be needing as much feed as when it is below freezing, like last spring.

"All are hoping this rain will cease so they can turn them out.

"It is also worth noting that farmers who have horse liversies and horse keepers in general are struggling with poached ground and mud and

may keep horses stabled for longer to protect pastures."

Andy Barr, who runs East Lenham Farm near Maidstone, has 2,000 acres with a mix of 1,000 ewes, 35 beef cattle and crops including wheat, barley, oats and oil seed rape.

He told us: "We are completely water-logged but not quite underwater. What we, and I assume many other farmers want, is for the rain to stop right now.

"Our crops are a bit stronger this year because it has not been as cold as it was last year, so hopefully if the rain does finally stop they stand a better chance of surviving.

"The weather has been a little crazy over the past few years. It would be nice if it was all quite stable for a while, and that means it stops raining.

"We are looking to the skies and watching the forecasts eagerly hoping for better conditions."

Swale MP Gordon Henderson added: "Horticulture and agriculture are important industries in my constitu-

ency and I am very worried about the effect the current extreme weather will have on local farmers.

"This is the third year running where a prolonged wet period has disrupted local farms.

"Last year there was a very wet spring and the year before a very wet summer. A drive round Sittingbourne and Sheppey shows that many fields are waterlogged.

"We are not facing the awful problems being experienced in the West Country, but a number of farmers are really suffering."

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ENGLISH HERITAGE
DOVER CASTLE

Step into England's story

From Mario to Minecraft: Geek expo will chart the huge rise of video games

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

VIDEO games have come a long way since Pong introduced us to the joys of competitive gaming on our TV screens.

And since that breakthrough into our living rooms back in the 1970s, the industry has grown into a multi-billion-pound colossus, invading popular culture with creations such

as Mario, Sonic the Hedgehog, Pac-man and Lara Croft, all of whom sprang from the screens and into our collective consciousness.

It is the industry's evolution which will be at the very heart of Geek – the gaming exhibition which returns for a third year to Margate next weekend.

The event – which stands for Game Expo East Kent – will see thousands of fans, young and old alike, head to the seaside town to celebrate the changing face of a quite remarkable industry, which has surfed the wave of tech-

nical innovation to now rival incomes generated by established mainstream media such as movies and music.

A spokesman for the event said: "The heart of Geek is a celebration of video games. There are more than 1,000 video games to play on 150 consoles, giving visitors the chance to trace their development from the 1980s to the current day.

"Or, of course, they can just find long-lost favourites."

There will be more than just a bank of screens, however. Other activities



GAME NOT OVER: Geek offers more than 1,000 games on 150 consoles

include board games, interactive theatre and a programme of workshops, talks and demonstrations running across the three days.

The spokesman added: "Our aim is to establish Geek as a destination for fami-

lies and friends at half term, attracting visitors to Margate regionally."

Geek runs from Friday to Sunday, February 21-23 at Margate Winter Gardens. Tickets for adults cost £13 and £7 for children. Under-5s go free.



Plug-in and build with multiplayer 'cave' for top-selling game

IT MAY look like a fine example of retro gaming, but Minecraft has become one of the gaming industry's biggest success stories in recent years.

The multi-platform game allows players to create their own worlds, build homes, grow crops and find precious gems in an engrossing environment which has captured the

imagination of gamers worldwide.

At the last count, more than 13.8 million copies of the game had been sold, with sales of around 25,000 copies recorded daily.

As a result, there will be a special Minecraft 'cave' at Geek, offering 40 machines dedicated to the game, in addition to a host of special tournaments with prizes up for grabs.

The game's reliance on the natural laws of physics has seen it become a popular hook to help youngsters understand game coding and even quantum mechanics.

Geek event organiser and studio assistant Kimberley Steward said: "The small Minecraft area at last year's Geek proved very successful. So this year we have asked

Multiplay to join us, it is organiser of Insomnia – the UK's biggest gaming festival – and has the largest Minecraft dedicated server in the world."

One of the challenges leading up to the event was to build an amusement park, in Minecraft, using Margate's Dreamland as inspiration.



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KentAnimalPark



THE OLD RECTORY: The eight-bedroom house sits in the village of Wickhambreaux, near Canterbury. It is opposite the village green, old mill and pub. Owner Mr Newby Vincent's client list includes musician Sir Elton John

'Downton' architect to put antiques under the hammer

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A RENOWNED architect, who designed one of the houses featured prominently in hit ITV drama *Downton Abbey*, has put his plush eight-bedroom rural retreat up for sale – with much of its antique furniture now set to go under the auctioneer's hammer.

Built in the 18th century, The Old Rectory could be yours for £2.25m.

But next month a dazzling display of furniture will go up for sale at a London auction house, expected to raise an additional six-figure sum.

The Grade II listed property is currently owned by Giles Newby Vincent, who specialises in restoring historic buildings, primarily in France and Italy. Among his client list are the likes of Sir Elton John and Conservative grandee Lord Heseltine.

The house, which comes complete with a two-bedroom cottage, and includes wood panelling, marble fireplaces and high ceilings, has been on the market since late last year, but many of the objects within will be sold next month.

Built in 1713, the Queen Anne-style country house is in Wickhambreaux, near Canterbury, and is perched opposite the village green, old mill and pub.

While the property is being marketed by estate agents Savills, auction house Bonhams will sell the collectible items on March 12, at its

showroom in New Bond Street. The architect says he will be sorry to leave the county and said the countryside home was ideally situated for his international business.

He explained: "I regularly go to Paris, the Dordogne and London.

"You can leave Ashford by train and be in Paris an hour and 40 minutes later, though of course you lose an hour in the time change.

"It is all terribly civilised."

Born into a family of antique collectors and architects, Mr Newby Vincent inherited a love of old buildings and beautiful objects.

From the age of five he was drawing house plans.

Brought up in Buckinghamshire, Mr Newby Vincent quickly decided he wanted to qualify as an architect, and got a job heading up architectural restoration projects for the National Trust.

But in 1990, he left to set up his own design company and has thrived ever since, working on projects in the UK, Europe and the Caribbean.

He said: "Good interior decoration is about balance, and listening to what the house says to you.

"It is also essential to appreciate the difference between 'front of house' and 'back of house'.

"Country houses have their own hierarchy of rooms, which should be reflected in the way they are furnished.

"A simple painted chair and a bunch of cowslips in a back hall can be just as effective as an old needlework armchair and a fine portrait in a drawing room."



AUCTION HERALDS NEW CHAPTER

MR NEWBY Vincent heads up the Belgravia-based design company Giles Vincent Design Associates and has become well known for his ideas, having masterminded the design for the Georgian-style set of the Crawleys' house in *Downton Abbey*.

The collection offered at Bonhams is to be sold to fund his latest

project; refurbishing a dilapidated villa in the south of France overlooking the sea near St Tropez.

He said: "Although I love many of these pieces – it has been a labour of love to assemble them – it is time for a new chapter. I hope they will now find new owners who will appreciate them as much as I have."

One highlight of the collection is

a Queen Anne walnut double-domed bureau cabinet, pictured far right, with an estimated value between £30,000-40,000.

But for antique enthusiasts without the big cash to spend there are also a number of smaller items including a Victorian tapestry covered chair valued at £1,200-1,800, pictured right.



African newborns take first water-logged steps

Three greater kudus born at a wildlife park during our own 'rainy season' are doing well, **Chris Britcher** finds out about these secretive woodland antelope...

THREE newborns have had to be carefully handled at a leading wildlife park after the constant winds and heavy rain saw them get used to a very soggy world.

The three greater kudus – a variety of woodland antelope – were born at Howletts Wild Animal Park in Bexesbourne, near Canterbury, just before Christmas.

Since then, the heavens have opened on an almost daily basis.

All of which is a far cry from the dry landscapes of southern Africa in which they are traditionally found.

The two girls and one boy are the result of a successful breeding programme orchestrated by the park.

It followed the arrival last spring of a male kudu, who was transferred to the park from France.

Jonathan Usher Smith, hoofstock keeper, says: "We are really pleased that the three baby kudus are doing so well, despite the bad weather this winter."

"Asmara's calf was born on a particularly stormy day, so it's great to see how well she's been getting on."

"Asmara and Adiri have a high ranking in the herd and their young

calves are subsequently growing quickly in confidence."

When full-grown, male greater kudus have spectacular spiral horns which can grow as long as 72 inches.

Their colouring and markings provide great protection and help to camouflage them in the wild.

Greater kudu are mostly found in the woodlands and bushlands of southern Africa, but also occur in smaller numbers in east Africa.

Due largely to their secretiveness and ability to survive in settled areas which offer sufficient cover, greater kudu occupy one of the largest

geographical ranges of any African antelope.

Greater kudu can fall prey to carnivores such as lions, leopards and spotted hyenas in the wild.

They are also increasingly being hunted by humans for both meat and trophies, due to their stunning horns.

While they are not presently endangered, their conservation status is constantly monitored to ensure their numbers are continuing to thrive.

Visitors will be able to see the trio of young kudus this February half-term during Howletts' special Wild at Heart week.



YOU AIN'T SEEN ME: Greater kudu are notoriously very secretive

FANTASTIC CHANCE TO NAME RARE PAIR OF CHEETAH CUBS

VISITORS to Port Lympne have the chance of naming two of these cute little cheetah cubs

During half-term, visitors to the park near Hythe can take part in a special competition being organised by the cubs' keepers.

As well as seeing their names given to the cubs, the winning entry will also have the exclusive opportunity to enjoy an encounter with the cheetah family.

Rich Barnes, head big cat keeper, said: "This is an exciting and rare opportunity for members of the public to choose the names of our cheetah cubs. As southern cheetahs are native to Africa, we are particularly looking for great Southern African or Zulu names."

The four cheetah cubs – two male, two female – were born at Port Lympne last autumn. They are the first to be born at Port Lympne in almost 30 years.



STARS BROKER DEALS IN FUNDRAISER

FAMOUS faces helped raise vital funds for the Aspinall Foundation – the charity which runs Howletts and its sister site, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe, as well as breeding programmes in Africa.

Irish comic and TV presenter Dara O'Briain joined Golden Globe winning actor Damian Lewis in raising money as part of the 20th annual ICAP Charity Day.

ICAP is a major multi-national finance broker.

The money raised will be invested in the ICAP Education

Centre at Port Lympne, which will provide a space for local communities and conservationists.

Both stars helped broker deals to raise vital funds.

Mr Lewis, who visited Port Lympne with his family, said: "I really enjoyed seeing the conservation work in action at Port Lympne and it's great to know the money we raised is going towards a worthy and important cause."

ICAP hosts its annual charity day once a year. During the day all of their revenues and commissions are donated to a select few charities.

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FARM FAVOURITES: Lounge on the Farm, which has featured a host of stars including Ellie Goulding, top right, and Seasick Steve, has grown to be one of the county's best-loved music festivals

Farmer sows a seed of change as festival told it must move

Lounge on Farm reduced to one day this summer, as search starts for new home, reports **Chris Britcher**

ORGANISERS of one of the county's best-loved music festivals confirmed this week that this summer's event would be dramatically scaled back to just one day – and that it will be its last at its traditional home.

Lounge on the Farm will take place at Merton Farm on the outskirts of Canterbury for the final time on Saturday, August 2.

The capacity will be reduced to just 2,500. In recent years the weekend event has had a licence for a 10,000-strong crowd.

But it will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2015 on a different site, after the farmer at Merton Farm decided his land was to focus fully on farming and not large events.

Festival chiefs say they have already been approached with a number of alternative venues in and around the city.

It will come as a big blow to the thousands of loyal Lounge fans who have flocked to the site and watched the event grow over recent years.

Headliners have included the likes of Ellie Goulding, Emile Sande, Chic, Soul II Soul, Echo and the Bunnymen, the Charlatans and Martha and the Vandellas.

Founder Sean Baker, however, insists the festival will be back in its full three-day form next year – and is promising a strong line-up to bid farewell to Merton Farm.

Speaking to KoS this week, Mr Baker said: "We had originally dealt with Tim Hulme who was the farmer, but although he went into semi-retirement a couple of years ago, he would al-

ways look after us during the festival.

"Now, however, he's retired to Africa, and his son, Edward, has taken over.

"We went to see him four weeks ago and discovered he'd changed his direction.

"He wants to concentrate on the farming and we understand that. The obstruction to the farm over two weeks is considerable.

"But there's no bitterness about his decision at all. We've had a good run there, but Lounge is all about change, and that's what's kept us going for so long.

"We convinced him – and it wasn't easy – to allow us to have one final event there, on just one day, to bid farewell to the site."

The available land will be smaller than normal however, hence the reduction in capacity.

Mr Baker explained: "Basically, the reason we can't have a three-day event there is the

land we used for parking and camping has been put out to crop. The main stage field we can't use as all the hay bales are being kept there.

"So we're limited in space to where the Meadows fields were last year and the two paddocks where the Playhouse field was.

"Feasibly, we can't do more than 2,500."

Lounge has developed an enviable reputation for its gradual growth and reliance on local produce and suppliers. A stipulation of its many food traders is they source local, Kentish, ingredients. And there was always a strong focus on supporting local endeavours.

However, it grew perhaps too rapidly after a successful 2010 event when new investors came on board.

The headliners were more mainstream and although the 2011 event saw numbers rocket, it came at a heavy price.

Under-age drinking and problems with teenagers meant opposition from the police and concerns voiced locally.

PASTURES

NEW: A number of new site have already been suggested to Sean Baker

“A lot of people would have rolled over a long time ago, and many would have just skipped this year and come back next year... at least we've got something going on.”

Sean Baker,
Founder, Lounge on the Farm





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THE WHITE STUFF: Interest in all things wintery has been sparked across the county by the Olympic Games in Sochi, including curling, with Lamberhurst boasting England's only dedicated rink

Winter Olympics sparks surge in visitors to slopes and rinks

Around the county, staff at snow sports venues are facing a blizzard of calls and mountains of emails from fans keen to have a go at a cool new pastime. **Chris Murphy** goes in search of the Sochi-effect...

W E MAY not see an awful lot of snow in the county, but the excitement of the Winter Olympic Games has sent interest in some classic ice sports soaring.

Ice rinks, dry ski slopes and even our very own curling rink say the Sochi-effect is being felt.

And it was given a huge shot in the arm when Team GB claimed its first ever medal on the snow when Jenny Jones, 33, from Bristol, picked up bronze in the slopestyle snowboarding event last Sunday.

By Monday morning, staff at the Bowles dry slope on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells, just over the East Sussex border in Rotherfield, faced a blizzard of calls and emails from snow fans wanting to get in on the action.

The outdoor activity centre's bread and butter is its 50 years involved in providing children's activities, but its dry slope, which is open to the public, is also proving a big hit for those wanting to brush up their skills on skis or snowboard.

Nick Stoddart is the head of youth and recreation at Bowles.

He said: "It has been amazing since Jenny won that bronze.

"We got into work on Monday morning and the rush was already under way. We had lots of extra emails and many more calls coming in."

Maidstone-born Ben Cavet, who was part of the French team in Sochi, performing in the demanding mogul skiing section, had his first taste of the sport at the centre.

He moved to France aged 10.

Explained Mr Stoddart: "His father,

Andy, was an instructor here for a number of years and Ben is quoted as saying one of his earliest memories is skiing down Bowles' slope with his dad guiding him."

Andy Rushton is the centre manager of the dry slope in Chatham, which was built in 1986. He has also seen a dramatic rise in calls and emails from people wanting snowboarding lessons.

He said: "We are able to take people from beginners through to becoming highly-skilled.

"Business picked up before Sochi started but since Jenny won the bronze the amount of interest has soared. Staff have been battling to keep up with the number of calls and I have been doing the emails from people looking to book lessons and learn how to snowboard.

"A lot of British skiers and boarders started on dry slopes as we don't exactly have a copy of the Alps in the UK.

"We have produced professional snowboarders here like Cody Herons

“A lot of British snowboarders and skiers started on dry slopes as we don't exactly have a copy of the Alps in the United Kingdom”

Andy Rushton,
Chatham dry slope manager

– his father is an instructor here."

The Chatham centre has also run slopestyle events which have been popular amongst youngsters long before they became an Olympic event.

Mr Rushton added: "Taking part can help train entrants to a very high standard."

It was a similar story at the Folkestone Sports Centre which boasts a popular ski slope.

Tessa Stickler, the centre's general manager, said: "The Winter Olympics certainly seem to be inspiring people to 'have a go'.

"We have had a really busy weekend. Jenny was awesome – I am sure there are many young people out there who would love to have a try but perhaps don't even know that there is an artificial slope right here in Folkestone.

"We offer both ski and snowboard facilities – all ages and all abilities can try the sports. People can start off with a lesson to see if they enjoy it and we can help anyone to get to wherever they want to be.

"As Jenny Jones said, she started out just for fun... now look where she is."

Starting out needn't break the bank either. At Folkestone, a one-to-one ski or snowboard lesson for an hour, including all equipment will cost £25, plus £10 per person for more people.

Fenton's Rink in Lamberhurst, near Tunbridge Wells, is the only place in England with a full-size curling rink.

Boss Ernest Fenton said: "We certainly are feeling the Sochi-effect right now – as you might expect since we are still the only dedicated

curling facility throughout England.

"Since we opened 10 years ago, curling has become a very popular choice for a bit of fun and sport for birthday parties, staff outings, corporate entertainment and more.

"The Olympics has added another level of interest and with a third of the season left to run, we close at the end of April, our bookings have already passed the whole of last year. So it will without doubt be a record-breaking season.

"The 'serious' side of curling is catered for too, of course, and we are hosting all the major English competitions at the rink. Our locally-grown teams are now developing as serious contenders on the European scene.

"The teams competing in Sochi are, of course, all from Scotland, where the game of curling has been played for centuries.

"We're not at that level yet, but we are moving ahead in the rankings."

And at the Silver Blades Ice Rink in Gillingham, staff have been feeling the effects of the Winter Olympics for the last month on the back of themed TV shows like The Jump.

Rink manager Christopher Hicks said: "We've noticed a marked interest in the more niche activities such as speed skating as well as higher profile activities such as figure skating and ice hockey.

"As well as an increase in social skaters at weekends, the number of young children coming to our ice hockey basics and junior hockey team training on a Monday night has more than doubled.

"Hopefully team GB will be picking up a medal in the speed skating so

we've been running a month of free taster sessions in speed skating technique.

"And they've proved very popular."

The venue is no stranger to the limelight as it is used as a training venue for shows like Dancing on Ice and by figure skaters who compete on a national and international level.

L ast December, Sophie Jones, 20, from Wigmere, Rainham, and her skating partner Jordan Brown were ranked third in the UK at the British Figure Skating Championships in Sheffield.

First place went to Team GB representatives Nicholas Buckland and Penny Coomes, who are currently competing in Sochi.

The rink manager added: "We've been showing live Olympic coverage in our sports bar and it's been a great morale boost for the skaters who use our rink on a regular basis. Kent may not be an obvious home for winter sports, but we have so many talented ice hockey players and figure skaters who train in the rink, it's great for them to see winter sports take centre stage in the media."

Silver Blades Gillingham is also home to Kent's Invicta Dynamos ice hockey team, as well as the ladies team Invicta Dynamites, a junior hockey team, and the Mustangs.

Jackie Mason, club secretary for the Invicta Dynamos, said: "We've had a great turnout for home matches in the past two months and it is noticeable that these are people coming to see live ice hockey for the first time.

"And they are returning for the next game, which is fantastic."



Look to the sky for space spectacular

AS THESE remarkable images show, there's plenty of awesome sights to explore by peering into the night sky from the county.

And next Saturday, a special event takes place on the Wye Downs, near Ashford, as part of the BBC's Stargazing Live season – which kicked off with the hugely popular show last month, presented by Professor Brian Cox.

Natural England and the Mid-Kent Astronomical Society (MKAS) will be holding a free stargazing 'space spectacular', giving people of all ages the chance to use telescopes and binoculars with experts on hand to help them discover the world above.

Explains Ian Hargraves, chairman of MKAS: "Our ambition is to introduce everybody of all ages to the wonders of the universe; like the super massive black hole at the centre of our own Milky Way galaxy that is about to consume a giant gas cloud."

"Actually, this has already happened, 30,000 years ago, but that's another story."

This is the third consecutive year a Stargazing Live event has been held on the Wye National Nature Reserve (NNR).

Last year, visitors saw Jupiter, cra-

ters on the Moon, and received special talks on everything from how large the universe is to the difference between a shooting star and a meteorite.

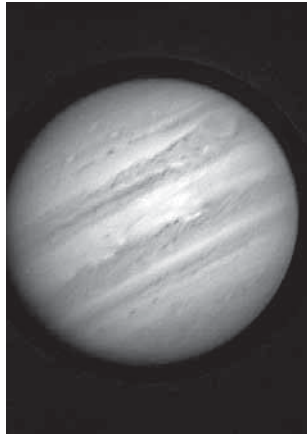
Joanna Carter, Natural England's public engagement adviser, said: "We're delighted to be hosting the event, which is designed to show people how accessible astronomy can be."

"Wye National Nature Reserve is famous for its stunning panoramic views in the daytime and this special occasion will showcase the incredible night-time views from the downs too. We're really looking forward to a great evening of entertaining exploration."

The free event will run between 6-9pm and is suitable for all ages.

Those attending next Saturday, February 22, should meet in the Devil's Kneading Trough Restaurant.

Places are limited, so it is advised to book in advance. Email joanna.carter@naturalengland.org.uk or call 0300 060 4645.



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Pictured, from above, Jupiter, the moon, the stunning Rosette Nebula, and the sun

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From Star Wars to the stage for inspired Davis

Hollywood star Warwick Davis is making his directorial debut in Bromley next week. He tells **Greg Miles** about how he hopes it will change opinions...

BY HIS own admission Warwick Davis has been lucky. From getting the role of furry Ewok Wicket in Star Wars movie *Return of the Jedi* as an 11-year-old, the work has kept coming.

From *Willow* to *Harry Potter*, and more recently his collaboration with Ricky Gervais for both the BBC mock documentary, *Life's Too Short*, and Sky's *An Idiot Abroad*, alongside Karl Pilkington.

But, as he is keen to point out, other short actors have never quite been able to hit Hollywood the way he has.

That's partly why he is championing their cause and fulfilling a dream of his by producing his first-ever theatre show, featuring entirely short actors.

The classic *See How They Run* is being put together by his Reduced Height Theatre Company and debuts in Bromley next week.

Nothing would give Davis greater satisfaction than for the audience to go away not paying attention to the height of those on stage, but admiring their talents first and foremost.

“I’ve had the dream of doing this for a couple of years. You have these crazy ideas and you put them to one side, but this one stuck”

“It’s exciting in more ways than one,” he said.

“I’m the producer, so I have the challenge of putting on a show and having people come and see it.

“It’s frightening as well because I do hope people come and see it – otherwise it will cost me money.

“I have had the dream of doing this now for a couple of years.

“You have these crazy ideas and you put them to one side, but this one stuck.

“I talked to a producer friend of mine and he thought it was brilliant and helped me put it together.”

See How They Run, written by Philip King, is set in 1944 in a vicarage in the village of Merton-cum-Middlewick.

CENTRE STAGE:

Warwick Davis is performing and directing the comedy *See How They Run*



A plot of mishaps and mistaken identity causes the action to spiral out of control for the troupe of characters which include a maid, a spinster, German soldier, retired actors, a bishop and several vicars.

“If it’s successful, I want to think about our next production for the end of the year or next year,” Davis said. “I would love us to put something out every year – with me or without me. But let’s not run before we can walk.

“In a way I’m challenging inequality. The play is not about us being short in the slightest.

“It would be a move towards short actors going up in the world if the audience left thinking about our talent, rather than our height.

“I did the TV show *Pointless* a while ago and the producer Bill Kenwright was on there.

“I asked him: ‘What do you think of having nine short actors do *See How They Run*?’ “He said he’d go and see it.”

His inspiration took hold when working on ITV’s *Perspectives: Warwick Davis – The Seven Dwarfs of Auschwitz*.

The show explored the story of the Ovitz family, a touring musical troupe, which included seven dwarfs, who survived the horrors of the Nazi’s Auschwitz concentration camp during the Second World War.

“The family worked in central and eastern Europe in the 1930s and 40s,” he said.

“They didn’t rely on being short to sell their act... they were just very good at what they did.

“In fact, they were brilliant. They built their own sets and everything. They were an inspiration to me.

“I thought this is what I needed to do – employ other short actors and challenge ourselves to put this play on.

“A lot of actors are never really challenged. They have a lot of talent and have been through drama school, but they never have the chance to show their skills.

“They end up doing commercials and pantos, but it’s never work that challenges their ability.

“I felt like they needed a chance to show what they can do.”

Davis was given his chance in acting when his grandmother heard a radio advert asking for extras for George Lucas’ *Star Wars* films.

Originally cast as a background

Continued on page 35 »

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« Continued from page 33

Ewok, he suddenly found himself elevated up the rankings when the actor originally playing Wicket was ill. It meant Davis had a starring role in Return of the Jedi and one which guaranteed him a place on the ever popular convention circuit, giving fans of the saga the chance to meet the actors behind the movies.

"When I started in films I was only 11. I didn't know any other little people at that point," he said. "I had never met anyone else like me.

"Star Wars was something I chanced upon. It was noted that I was actually quite good at performing. I got some really good opportunities from that film and the snowball had started to roll.

"I have had a career based on the fact I was in Star Wars.

"A lot of the things I have wanted to do I have done. I always wanted to be in Doctor Who and I was; I wanted to do a lap on Top Gear and I did.

"It's about being in the right place at the right time and making your own luck. I'm now at the stage where in the last couple of years work has been coming in; I'm having to turn things down. I never would have dreamt I'd do that.

"I would love to take on everything, and I still do to a degree. I consider every job will be my last."

Although he appeared on stage in Monty Python musical Spamalot last year, and has done the odd pantomime down the years, he has always wanted to be in a play.

Davis said: "I love going to the theatre and watching plays, but I've never had the chance to be in one.



"The only way of doing this was to produce it and put myself in it."

The Reduced Height Theatre Company is the second time he has taken a proactive approach to his career.

In 1995 he set up Willow Management with his father-in-law, Peter Burroughs, also a short actor.

It started out as specialising in representing actors under 5ft, but later expanded to help those in niche roles, including tall actors.

It played a big part in supplying short actors for the Harry Potter movies, with Davis himself portray-

ing Professor Filius Flitwick.

"It's a completely different industry now from when I started," said Davis, who is still just 44.

"My father-in-law felt there wasn't what there should be for short people.

"You would get people phoning up and saying: 'We need five dwarves for this job, how much is it?'. They would offer £600 for the lot. It was like short actors were a commodity. It was like they were buying fruit or something.

"We have set out to change that attitude over the last 18 years."

There was a time when he also struggled for work as an actor.

It led to him having second thoughts about the industry until a script for horror movie Leprechaun landed on his doormat, which revived his fortunes and enthusiasm.

"It's a really hard profession," he said. "It's not what people think it is. They see the photos in the papers and the magazine shoots and see you on the red carpet.

"That's only a small percentage of what an actor does. They don't see you filming in Leeds all the way through the night in the middle of winter. It's not very glamorous.

"In 1990 there was just no work for about eight months. We [he and

“ You would get people phoning up and saying ‘We need five dwarves for this job, how much is it?’ They would offer £600 for the lot...like they were buying fruit or veg ”

his wife Samantha] didn't have any money at all. We were just about to get married as well. Our television set was on a cardboard box in the corner of the room.

"It was a tough time. I thought, 'well what is plan B?'. I needed to think about doing something else.

"I started looking at doing some graphic design work, and I could shoot videos and do editing so I thought about doing that too.

"I was thinking about all that and then a script for Leprechaun falls through the door. This was a new movie franchise and for a couple of reasons I jumped at it.

"Firstly I needed the work, but there was a part for me to play an evil character. I had only ever appeared in films playing a good character. I felt it was the right time to show I had more in me. It turned out to be the right decision.

"We went on to make six films and they were cult favourites around the world. Things have continued to grow from that."

■ See How They Run is at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley from February 19-22. Tickets from £11.90. To book call or visit www.atgtickets.com/Bromley.

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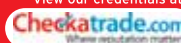
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Players unite for trust

The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust is being backed by a new drama society. **Greg Miles** talks to the group's founder.

A NEWLY formed drama society is putting on a Second World War drama, Flare Path, to raise money for the new visitor centre at the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust.

The University of Kent Players are taking on the challenge for their first production in the hope of raising £5,000 which will go towards funding the new facility at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone, which looks after the national memorial to The Few.

Amateur thespian Neil Hornsey took it upon himself to form the group after taking up a new job at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

"I joined the university two years ago and I have a theatrical background," he said.

"I have always enjoyed the theatre and being on stage in an amateur fashion.

"When I joined I asked whether there was a society and there wasn't – so I went through the process of starting one up for staff."

He decided to put on a fundraiser for the trust because his mother-in-law, Pam Wraight, is one of the leading volunteers at the site.

Mr Hornsey said: "I thought, 'if we put a play on, it could have a connection with the Second World War and



ON STAGE: The University of Kent Players will perform the play Flare Path

Flare Path is a great play to do. Why can't we do this as a first production and raise money for the trust as well?."

"In future every play we do we hope to raise money for various different causes."

Flare Path, written by Terrence Rattigan, is set in 1942, at a hotel on the Lincolnshire coast where a young RAF bomber pilot, Teddy, is celebrating a reunion with his actress wife Patricia.

But their lives are thrown into

upheaval when Patricia's ex-lover and Hollywood heart-throb arrives and an urgent bombing mission over Germany is ordered, leaving Patricia in a dramatic love triangle.

■ Flare Path is at the Gulbenkian in Canterbury from Wednesday, February 19, until Saturday, February 22. Tickets are £12 and £8 for senior citizens, students and children. To book visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk or call 01227 769075.

Time Out Top Ten

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2 Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
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3 Winter Gardens, Margate,
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4 Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone
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5 Orchard Theatre, Dartford
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Phone: 01322 220000

Seven Brides For Seven Brothers: Musical favourite featuring Sam Attwater. Tickets from £18.

6 Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Wednesday, February 19
Phone: 01892 678678

The Bible: The Complete Word of God: Comedy group The Reduced Shakespeare Company in action.

7 Theatre Royal Margate
Saturday, March 1
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Lloyd Hollett: Comedian returning to the stage where he started with his new show By Royal Appointment. Tickets £15.

8 Hornby Visitor Centre, Margate
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Star turn as Michelin chefs team up for special dinner

Chapter One's Andy McLeish talks to **Greg Miles** about why he and other top chefs are raising money for charity the Nicholls Spinal Injury Foundation...



KITCHEN WHIZZ: Chapter One's Andy McLeish will be joined in the kitchen by fellow Michelin star chefs

THE county's top five chefs will unite in the kitchen for a spectacular charity dining event next month.

Graham Garrett, Andy McLeish, Daniel Hatton, Stephen Harris and Tim Johnson, who all work in Michelin star restaurants, will be creating a menu to die for at The Chapter One, in Farnborough Common, near Orpington, in aid of the Nicholls Spinal Injury Foundation on March 17.

But the quintet will not just be turning up on the night to cook, they will also be going out hunting the food on a fishing trip and shoot. "We have never done it before," said McLeish, the restaurant's chef patron.

"I was speaking to Graham, from the West House, and Stephen at The Sportsman and thought it would be a good idea if we got together."

The menu will start with champagne and canapés before amuse-bouche of local oysters from Stephen Harris; roast saddle of local wild rabbit from Daniel

Hatton; warm escabeche of wild seabass from Graham Garrett; roast saddle of Chart Farm sika venison from McLeish; finished with warm brioche and bramley apple charlotte from Tim Johnson.

There is also a pre-dessert dish of blood orange trifle being prepared by McLeish and his team.

"We sat down and talked the menu through," said McLeish.

"Everybody has a different style; Stephen is very rustic with a lot of emphasis on local produce and Graham is also very much into local produce too.

"We are going out fishing for the seabass and hunting for the venison too.

"We want to make it completely field to fork. So many chefs advertise themselves as field to fork, but we do it as much as we can, it's a passion.

"Choosing a deer in the wild beats picking one up at a market.

"I don't shoot for the trophy. I shoot for the quality of meat. I wouldn't want to rely on a market where the butcher doesn't know

the difference between the deer."

All the proceeds from the seven-course event will be benefiting a charity which is particularly close to McLeish's heart.

Daniel Nicholls, who the foundation is named after, was a weekend runner at Chapter One before he was paralysed from the arms down after breaking his neck.

It happened in 2003, when he dived into a wave on Bondi beach in Australia and hit his head on an unseen sandbank beneath the water. His father David Nicholls had worked with McLeish earlier in his career.

"The charity is quite close to our hearts," said McLeish.

"We all hear stories like this, but I know the guy. It really brings it home. It was such a huge shock."

■ Tickets for the event are priced at £120 per person, which is inclusive of wine paired with each course. To book contact Cheryl Almond via email cheryl@chaptersrestaurants.com, or by calling the restaurant on 01689 854 848.

THE CHEFS

Andy McLeish

Chef patron at Chapter One
PREVIOUSLY worked with Nico Ladenis at Chez Nico, at Hotel The Ritz and in Koh Samui, Thailand, before taking up the head chef job at The Dining Room in the Landmark Hotel and latterly the executive chef and director at Chapter One.

Daniel Hatton

Head chef at Thackeray's
HAS gone full circle after starting at Thackeray's aged 16. Now back as head chef after spells with Gordon Ramsay and Marco Pierre White, while also heading up the Hengist in Aylesford before his return.

Graham Garrett

Chef/owner at The West House
FORMER rock drummer who has run restaurants for Nico Ladenis and Richard Corrigan and now has his own in Biddenden which was awarded its first Michelin star in 2004.

Stephen Harris

Chef patron and founder at The Sportsman
TOOK over the Sportsman pub in 1999 with his wine expert brother Phil. Grows his own veg and churns his own butter. Awarded first Michelin star in 2008, and last year received the National Restaurant Awards' Chef's Chef of the Year.

Tim Johnson

Chef/owner at Apicius
LEARNT his trade under Brian Turner before becoming third chef to Gary Rhodes at the Castle Hotel. Also worked for Sir Paul Getty and with Roger Verge at the three Michelin starred Moulin de Mougins in France. Opened up the Apicius in Cranbrook 10 years ago.

Passionate Portuguese may lack spice but it's on the right side of the tracks

A Taste of Portugal

Location: Sittingbourne

By Joe Bill

A GREAT location doesn't guarantee diners a good meal.

But sat trackside at Sittingbourne train station, year-old eatery A Taste of Portugal has the perfect location to reel in the footfall heading past it.

The former Old Globe and Engine pub has been transformed into a Portuguese taverna – though not from the outside. Inside, however, paper-topped tables huddle together under hanging Portuguese paraphernalia.

European newspapers lie on the bar and southern European music plays, giving the restaurant and enclosed a cosy atmosphere.

For a freezing, wet Monday evening in February, occupied tables must be a welcome sight for any restaurant owner let alone those who have not been trading locally for too long.

The range of Portuguese wine was

impressive but, as a lager drinker, I opted for the continental tall, cold glass of beautiful Sagres.

As you would expect, the menu housed variations on themes of chicken, pork and shell fish.

To start with I chose the tiger prawns piri-piri – a chilli-based marinade classically used in Portuguese food. They were superb; succulent, juicy and perfectly cooked with a kick of spice without being overbearing. Truly a top dish.

However, my companion's dish was a little less exciting.

A tapas-style, small cold meat platter of sliced chorizo, parma ham, salami and cheese with a couple of black olives. The meat was tasty enough, but without bread and oil and a bit of 'pazzaz', it lacked some imagination.

Next from the serving hatch, to the sound of a rattling cow bell, was the main course.



LACKING: A Taste of Portugal came up a little short on quality for Joe Bill

I went for pork with clams though the explanation I received as to how it was cooked was "in corriander".

Based on the preceding delicious tiger prawns, I plumped for it anyway.

I shouldn't have. The pork, cut into strips, was cooked very well, but the clams were almost non-existent.

The few that scattered the plate were anorexic at best.

Served with chips and salad, the pork pile left the plate very oily and I was disappointed the previous course's quality was not emulated.

My guest took on the classic chicken piri-piri. The flattened out

breast was again succulent and finished off on the griddle to give it a smokey flavour. Unfortunately, the piri-piri part was not served as a marinade a la the prawns; it came in a side pot to be spooned onto the meat. It seemed strange, but the taste was spot on and got the thumbs up.

Though my main did not live up to expectation, I felt the size of the portions were spot on and left us enough room for dessert.

Again, we shouldn't have both-ered. A lack of choice left us with a slice of chocolate gateau and a custard tart, accompanied by the explanation "customers are usually too full for dessert".

Still, the chef did come out to say hello, and even offered us a couple of aperitifs on-the-house.

The three courses, with drinks, came to a very reasonable £56.76.

With a few tweaks A Taste of Portugal could be somewhere to have a fun night.

But the varying quality in dishes is a little too similar to a back street European eatery for my liking.

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Gift lists

USING a gift list company has long since taken some of the administrative headache out of co-ordinating the wedding present wish-list.

No longer is the list carefully passed around family and friends with initials put alongside the items they pledge to purchase.

Yet it remains an essential part of the planning process for the big day. Not only do many couples rely on the generosity of friends and family to help set them up for their life together, but their guests also want to ensure they get the right item.

The opportunities presented have long since been embraced by the major department stores.

For many years now the likes of John Lewis, Debenhams, Marks & Spencer and House of Fraser will have staff on hand only too happy to help guide you through the process and ensure guests have easy online access to the list of gifts available to order. With a few clicks, the gift is purchased and then delivered to the happy couple.

The great thing about choosing one of those companies to help you out is they have a huge range of products for the happy couple to nominate

for kind guests to purchase.

But they are far from alone in a business which seems to be recession-proof. After all, who wants to deprive their daughter, or son, the wedding they always dreamed of?

Prezola is one such firm hoping to muscle its way into the competitive world of wedding gift organisation.

Set up in 2011, it has already collected awards for the quality of its service.

Rather than simply confine the couple to selecting from one store, it promises to do all the hard work for you. And all from the comfort of your laptop, tablet or PC.

Just log in with the online link and PIN the bride sends, and pick your gift from the list.

It then promises to collect the items from its range of more than 30,000 from more than 100 retailers.

With all items then gathered together by the firm, the happy couple will receive a bumper delivery after their big day with all the items gift-wrapped and ready for them.

Then, hopefully, after they have excitedly opened them all, they'll be sure to send those all important thank you notes.



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The historic Tartar Frigate is one of the

only 18th century flint restaurants in Kent.

Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in the county, the harbourside restaurant boasts stunning views over Viking Bay and the quaint Broadstairs harbour.

Available for private hire, the intimate dining room can seat and cater for up to 60 guests. Call Lemini on 01843 862013 or visit www.tartarfrigate.co.uk.

A short distance along the cliff top, providing stunning panoramic views of the entire bay, the newly-appointed Charles Dickens' first floor dining room, along with its mezzanine bar, can cater for up to 100 guests.

The dining room and/or the mezzanine bar can be made available solely for your wedding party and the experienced

catering team can provide a vast selection of delicious menu options.

Contact Ben on 01843 603040 or visit www.charlesdickensbroadstairs.co.uk.

Following the coastline round to the nearby town of Ramsgate, The Oak Hotel – consisting of 34 en-suite rooms – provides a stunning separate function room, The Tiffany Suite.

The room can seat and cater for up to 70 guests and has its own balcony overlooking the only Royal Harbour and Marina in the country.

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Figuring out *Icing skills*



Ever wonder how they make those amazing sugar fondant figures you see on top of wedding cakes?

Well your opportunity to do just that – and try it for yourself – is just around the corner thanks to a woman who bills herself as one of the nation's top 'sugar artists'.

Lorraine McKay is coming to the county to run sessions on how to make your big day extra special by adding the hand-made toppings to the traditional highlight of the wedding day meal.

No stranger to success – she scooped six gold awards at the Cake International Show between 2004 and 2008 – the talented artist will stage workshops in Maidstone in May showing exactly how it's done.

She told us: "I will be showing those attending

the course how to make and finish a bride and groom in my particular style.

"It can be quite difficult, but with my help, I can show just how easy it can be to get the hang of."

Hailing from Edinburgh, Lorraine runs the extraicing.co.uk website and on May 9-10 will be holding a two-day workshop at the Tovil Working Men's Club and Institute. The course costs £225, but Lorraine supplies just about everything needed to come up with the distinctive characters.

She adds: "Once they have learned the basics on how to create my characters, they will be in a position to make their own, perhaps in their own likeness if they are getting married, or to appear like a friend who is getting wed and their partner."

"The sky is the limit once they know just how it's done. I was self-taught, and I want people to know if they are even remotely artistic they can succeed at something like this.

"It may appear a little daunting at first as there is a lot of detail to get right, but once they have the skill, they will be able to produce a likeness of most anyone, or anything."

After launching her website, invites came in from all over the world – even travelling as far as Texas to give demonstrations to would-be sugar artists there.

There are no moulds or cutters involved – all the work is done like a sculpture, even the hairstyles, and it is done without sugar gum, said Lorraine.

She will be back at the major cake show, which is held in Birmingham in November, once more this year to promote and signs copies following the publication of her first book.

Lorraine added: "I have taught this art to people in Malaysia, Nigeria, Australia, New Jersey, Seattle, Los Angeles, Holland, Denmark, Florida, Canada, Boston, Chicago and probably some I've forgotten for now."



Icing figure expert Lorraine McKay is coming to Kent

Best of old *meets best of new*

Where are thousands of places to hold a wedding, and the variety of venues has perhaps never been so extensive.

From traditional churches, to stately homes; castles to ornate gardens, the only limit is both your imagination and, of course, your budget.

In fact, such are the county's attractions, some of the biggest names in show business have tied the knot here.

X Factor host and BBC Radio 2 presenter Dermot O'Leary has established himself as one of the nation's best-loved personalities. He had also fallen in love with Kent girl Dee Koppang.

So when he came to tie the knot he and a whole host of his celebrity chums made their way down to west Kent.

Following a service at the pretty neighbouring St Mary's Church, the happy couple celebrated their nuptials at Chiddingstone Castle.

The discreet, magnificent, building played host to the likes of Chris O'Dowd, Holly Willoughby, Caroline Flack and James Cordon.

Dating back to the 1500s, it, like so many other venues in the county, is rich in history and elegance.



The George in Rye boasts its own unique charm

Keeping with the celebrity theme, but popping just over the border to Rye in East Sussex, is The George in Rye.

They weren't tying the knot, but it received the

patronage of some of the world's biggest movie stars recently when George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray and John Goodman stayed there while shooting scenes for *Monuments of Men*, their latest

movie which is currently in cinemas.

But Kent more than holds its own when it comes to venues offering that all important style.

Eastwell Manor in Boughton Leas, on the outskirts of Ashford, has for years been one of the county's most prized venues.

Set in sumptuous ground of 3,000 acres, it has four special areas with a licence to hold ceremonies including three oak panelled rooms and an Italian walled garden complete with gazebo.

If picturesque is what you are after then it certainly ticks the boxes with its lily pond, historic gardens, and manicured lawns. It too has star quality.

It was the venue chosen by Ashford resident and former England international footballer Neil 'Razor' Ruddock for his big day.

The former Tottenham Hotspur star and Celebrity Big Brother housemate, wed Leah Newman there last year.

Guests included X Factor contestant Rylan Clark who was asked to be a ringbearer; former EastEnders actress Gillian Taylforth and the comedian Bobby Davro.

And the good news that is just the tip of a giant iceberg of opportunity when it comes to finding the right venue for you in Kent.

Picture: ANNEEL MARINOVICH PHOTOGRAPHY

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

It's not the speed that's the problem

AS somebody who has been driving since the mid-1960s, I have witnessed the rise of those people like reader Richard Mountford (Letters, 02/02) that wish to deny us travel choice.

Any excuse is rolled out to meet their political agenda and pollution is now coming back into fashion.

Witness the proposed downgrading of speed limits on the Hoo Peninsula, which Medway councillor Phil Filmer says will reduce pollution.

Has he any proof?

Downgrading speed limits means longer journey times with engines running for longer periods, so how is that reducing emissions?

Mr Mountford is wrong when he says 20mph is for "minor residential roads".

The Government has stated they can be used on major roads and as councils will want to save on signage costs, the argument now is to convert all 30mph limits to 20mph.

This exchange of letters was prompted by the Government downgrading motorway speed limits and, only last week, has now stated it will be installing additional speed cameras (painted grey) on motorways.

Of course hitting somebody at a faster speed could cause more injury, but this has to be balanced by people's wishes to have reasonable travel times and not be stuck in long caterpillars of congested traffic.

It is not much of a road safety policy to be arguing what is the best speed to hit somebody, when we should be focusing on avoiding the accident in the first place.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

Come on EU put hand in pocket

THE mental anguish of flood victims in Kent must be almost unbearable.

With our own government constantly looking the other way, financial help should be available from the EU at Brussels.

A few years ago, when Germany and central Europe suffered catastrophic flooding, millions of euros (much of it from the tens of millions we give every day to the EU) came pouring out of Brussels to help them.

It would be a nice gesture if Brussels gave back some of the now £53 million gross we give the EU every day, so we could help our own people in their hour of need for a change.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Fact is lower speeds reduce air pollution

MR Hudson-Gool is factually incorrect about speed limits and air pollution (Letters, last week).

Lower speeds help to reduce air pollution both on motorways and on residential roads.

Most car engines use the least fuel per mile – and therefore cause the least pollution – when driven at a constant 55 to 60 mph.

Consumption per mile rises sharply after that, so cars are 17 per cent less efficient at 70 mph and 28 per cent less efficient at 80mph.

In addition, one is likely to have to accelerate and brake more to maintain a faster average speed, which makes fuel consumption per mile even worse.

It is the increased braking and accelerating which leads to higher speeds on residential roads also being less fuel-efficient.

A constant 30mph is more

efficient than a constant 20mph, but the reality is that we can rarely maintain the higher speed.

We have to slow down for bends and junctions, and to let other cars go when parked cars, or other hazards, make the available space too narrow for two cars to pass each other.

Try aiming for 20mph instead of 30, and you will notice how little braking you have to do.

As well as cleaner air and less climate change, lower speeds on residential roads would mean fewer people would be seriously injured or killed in accidents.

And one final benefit is that safer, quieter roads encourage walking and cycling, transport methods which are good for our health and, of course, cause no pollution at all.

Richard Mountford, Hildenborough

Radio fans' anger at axing of 'Pauls'

■ WHAT an unhappy Radio Kent listener I have become; my wonderful, entertaining Sunday guys PJ and Paul Harris having been removed from the station (KoS, last week).

I was wondering where they had gone when I heard the overbearing Julia George was on.

I know when Terry Wogan retired from Radio 2 he was very much missed and when Chris Evans took over a lot of listeners switched off

But to remove two wonderful local DJs when they spin off each other

with such fun, good music, chats and call-ins. I for one will be switching off.

We as listeners should campaign to reinstate them at once.

Sue Reeves, Langton Green

■ COULD someone advise Gordon Davidson to return to his old post as he has made a right mess of things at BBC Radio Kent.

Has he never heard the old saying 'if it ain't broke don't fix it'?

SM Hobson, Chatham

■ I PHONED BBC Radio Kent to complain about the recent weekend changes and taking the PJ and Harris show off the radio and was told to tune into BBC Radio 2 as that

"might more suit my taste".

I have switched off now on a Sunday afternoon, as I listen to Julia George all week and would prefer something different on a Sunday.

I have enjoyed for many years the two Pauls on Saturdays and Sundays.

I am sure the decision will not be revoked, but wanted to express my opinion.

Stella Pennell, via email

■ I CANNOT believe the two Pauls have been treated in such a disgraceful way. Is there a petition I could sign?

Jo Nichols, via email

■ May I join the other of your readers who are also Radio Kent listeners in expressing my disappointment at the disappearance of the 'Sunday Supplement' programme presented by Paul Harris and Paul James?

It was a privilege to listen to their gentle humour gained from many, many years of experience in the world of music hall.

They demonstrated that enduring success comes from lots of hard work rather than overnight 'celebrity'.

Peter Medwell, Broadstairs

Halt breeding of birds for shoots

FEBRUARY 1 marked the end of the pheasant and partridge season.

For many people, these 'game' birds are unable to stir the emotions in the same way as a persecuted badger or a vivisected dog.

But their capacity to feel pain is equal, while the scale on which they are 'processed' and killed exceeds that of, say, egg-laying hens.

Industry data suggests around 42 million pheasants and some nine million partridges were released for shooting this season just ended.

Having been hand-reared, the birds are ill-suited for life in the wild and some 60 per cent die before they can be shot.

What enrages and pains those of us who oppose the 'game' bird business is that it is based on breeding animals on a massive scale to be destroyed for pleasure.

The law and the tax regime recognise game bird shooting as a 'sport'. And figures from the shooting industry itself show it costs more than 13 times as much to rear pheasants and get them airborne than the shot birds will fetch retail.

It is time to follow the Dutch example and ban the production of birds for 'sport shooting'

Andrew Tyler, director, Animal Aid, Tonbridge

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

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- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
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Banks of the Medway

by **Ginny Wenban**
from East Farleigh

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CLAIRE young 39 slim size 10, pretty, outgoing, seeks similar spontaneous male for nights out and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409417

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1960 Box 408297

SUE young at heart female, very adventurous and looking for no strings fun with mature man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409251

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female, looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409107

ANGIE 32 curvy size 16, very attractive, good company and really fun to be with. What are you waiting for? Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409255

SUE attractive, likes walks, gardening, social drinks, looking for male to settle down with, 60's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409251

68YR old widow, seeking 68-70yr old male, likes meals out, cosy nights in, lets start New Year with new outlook. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409467

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1954 Box 366019

CATHY happy independent female looking for her soul mate, someone to spend quality time but who also likes their own space. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409909

VANESSA 32yrs single mum, honest, loving, kind hearted, been hurt in the past enjoys music, reading etc. WLTm my very special Mr Right. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409899

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. Tel No: 0905 002 1955 Box 409991

BLONDE female, 5ft 11ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

KAREN 55, fun loving, attractive, young at heart, seeks caring affectionate man, 55-65 who loves animals and the simple things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408813

MANDY blonde, blue eyes, voluptuous, honest, likes animals, walks, socialising, seeking older gent, late 70's early 80's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408741

SARAH pretty petite green eyed female, lots of fun, likes children, animals, gym, eating out, running, sports, fast cars, shopping, seeking nice guy to spend time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408879

JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409097

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SELSEA 43, driver, own home, N/S, 5ft 8ins, slim, dark hair, green eyes, confident, outgoing, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 40-48. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408405

25YR old very lovely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408249

CATH attractive tall blonde, likes travel, walking, romantic nights out, cosy nights in, looking for Prince Charming, must be passionate and loyal. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408245

KAREN blonde, long legged, many interests, very young looking, outgoing, adventurous, likeable, WLTm my soul mate, could that be you? Pils call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407953

CHRIS 39yr old attractive well built sporty lady looking for tall, happy, well built male to enjoy adult companionship, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407935

CATHY divorced independent hopeless romantic seeking special gent to spend really nice times with, get to know and take it from there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407823

LUCY truly wonderful brunette who really loves life, seeking sincere male for true friendship with a little romance thrown in for good measure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407457

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408779

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

SOPHIE attractive hard working female, who enjoys dancing and good company, WLTm loving male to enjoy nights out and genuine laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408625

MARG elegant attractive affectionate lady who enjoys many varied interests WLTm genuine male 50-60yrs for mutual indulgences. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408511

HEATHER enjoys holidays, eating in with a large bottle of wine, cooking, meeting new people seeking interesting male to get to know a little better. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408509

ALEX 35, very attractive, slim, blonde, caring sensitive single mum, likes meals in/out, nice pubs, WLTm similar male/dad to love and care for. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408503

LISA busty blonde 34yr old fun to be with single party goer, looking for similar male for adult fun maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408289

ELAINE lonely divorced female with no ties, enjoys dog walking, cosy nights in, looking for reliable caring male to spend quality time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408283

25YR old very lovely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408249

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315

CARIBBEAN female, 50, honest, caring, thoughtful, seeking male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408231

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion, 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 8ins, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thelma area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56r, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easygoing, GSOH, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 40, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707

JOYCE 63, widow, WLTm gent with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067

DEILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Midway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

PROFESSIONAL 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386234

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406941

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-going female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, strong like, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408221

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

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DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407055

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, tall, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589



CHRIS 68, 5ft 8ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whitstable. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408439

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033

55YR old male, average looks, GSOH, looking to meet similar lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408227

JAMIE 6ft 1ins, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051

SEXY fireman, looking for love and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407883

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717

KEVIN 40, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405



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ATTRACTIVE OPTION: With new firms trying to avoid costly long-term office rental fees, hubs are proving a more and more popular option

Start-ups keep costs low in pay-as-you-go offices

WITH small businesses looking to keep start-up costs down and avoid costly long-term office rental contracts, new-style enterprise hubs are proving an increasingly attractive option.

These business centres are making serious in-roads into the commercial market, offering office locations, with fast internet services, individual work stations, meeting rooms and a postal address on a short-term rental basis.

The concept, of course, is nothing new, but with more people looking to venture out alone and build their business from humble beginnings, the cost-conscious facilities are proving a hit.

With small companies often starting with just one owner, it makes sense to keep overheads at a minimum and operate out of the business hubs until they can afford to move on.

In recent months, a number of these centres have opened across

Joe Bill investigates a growing trend for small firms desperate to succeed and keep overheads to minimum...

Kent, the latest being announced this week in Maidstone as national business charity, the Enterprise Foundation, unveiled the Maidstone Enterprise Centre.

The £90,000 refurbishment of the first floor of Medvale House is in the centre of town, and the charity's chief executive Keith Powney is hoping the hub will attract start-up companies out of their homes and into a business environment.

He said: "Speaking from personal experience, starting a new business can be tough, especially when based in wrong or isolated surroundings. This is why we want to provide a professional but nurturing environment for new businesses to base themselves from."

A second hub is due to open this month in Shepway offering the same flexible work space for up to 15 start-up businesses.

Known as the New Romney Business Incubation Centre, the project has seen Shepway District Council and Romney Resource Centre pledge more than £70,000 over the next three years to the scheme.

Kent County Council has granted £40,000 and socio-economic development group Magnox has put in £100,000 to the centre at Mountfield Road Industrial Estate, New Romney

The new centre offers micro-companies a base and business address, IT support, meeting rooms, printing and photocopying facilities.

There will also be a professional business support and advice team on hand from industry specialist Enterprise First.

Shepway council economic development chief Alan Clifton-Holt said: "Local people wanting to set up a new business, or who need help in continuing to run their young business, now have somewhere on their doorstep that can offer support.

"We are proud to be central in taking this initiative forward and working with our partners to help add value to the local economy."

Maidstone's new hub will also offer regular workshops and advice events using local and national partners to help their start-up tenants.

Mr Powney added: "We want to find people who have a great idea and just need an extra bit of guidance and support to set up on their own."

"Maidstone will be our third centre

Continued on page 53 »

Training, courses & careers

Online vacancies for apprentices reveal increasing demand

APPRENTICESHIPS are on the rise once again with a big surge in the number of vacancies being advertised.

According to the quarterly Apprenticeship Index, published by the National Apprenticeship Service, vacancies advertised online shot up by 38 per cent between August and October 2013, compared with the same period last year.

That equates to 5,420 vacancies compared with 3,920 in 2012.

But with online applications leaping by 50 per cent (to 45,560), the Government is urging employers to create more apprenticeship positions in

order to meet the demand.

In another positive step, the index also reveals that, nationally, apprenticeships are attracting increasing numbers of applications from female candidates.

Online applications from women have increased by more than half since last year, with 216,100 applications made by females in the three month period – a 55 per cent increase.

Skills and enterprise minister Matthew Hancock said: "These figures show that apprenticeships are growing in appeal to young people and yet more young women are seeking out this unique opportunity to earn while



ON THE RISE: Apprenticeships are proving more and more popular

they learn and gain a recognised qualification while notching up vital work experience.

"With new independent research revealing that one-in-five employers currently have former apprentices working in senior, board level positions, it's also very encouraging to see vacancies increasing and new

employers coming on board.

"But with each online position attracting an average of 12 applications, demand continues to outstrip supply and I would urge more employers to consider how they can take advantage of this available pool of talent and grow their business through apprenticeships."

Project hopes to grow biology idea

STUDENTS from Sir Roger Manwood's School in Sandwich have been given the opportunity to conduct experiments in a professional laboratory at the nearby science and technology specialist Discovery Park – former home of Pfizer.

It comes after tenant Algae-Cytes teamed up with the school to offer 14 AS Level biology students the chance to work at the site as part of an eight-week practical project which will see them learn microbiology techniques.

College campuses to stage open day

NORTH West Kent College is holding an open day on March 12 at both its Darford and Gravesend campuses.

Running at both sites from 3-8pm, it provides the opportunity to see the difference between staying at school sixth-form and stepping into college. Staff and students will be on hand to give guidance and advice.

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817100.



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Selling your business? Take good care of all the details

By Duncan Cochrane-Dyet

IN financial terms, there is much that can be done to optimise the sale of a business.

Part of this is strategic – bringing in a new customer will demonstrate growth and potential – and part is operational, for instance ensuring your credit control is effective.

It can be useful to take a fresh look at your accounting policies so they best reflect underlying transactions too, as inappropriate revenue policies can give a buyer leverage to negotiate a price reduction.

Consider the buyer's due diligence requirements and have up-to-date files to demonstrate that your firm is well-managed and controlled. This includes all contracts with suppliers, customers and maintenance.

Valuable investment property or large amounts of surplus cash could jeopardise the trading status of your company for tax purposes.

Therefore, if you own a company which has both trading and investment activities you should consider the benefit of restructuring, possibly by demerging, to separate the various activities. A pre-sale tax review will help to identify possible problem areas.

It is also important to ensure there are no unresolved legal issues, whether disputes with suppliers, customers, employees or official bodies. A potential buyer may be put off by outstanding litigation and at the very least will want to be protected from the worst of the pos-

sible outcomes. Although it may be frustrating to settle a dispute you feel you could win, it will remove a potential stumbling block in the sale.

When business ownership is transferred, employees are protected by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations – commonly known as TUPE – which involve a certain amount of diligence. In particular, you should prepare staff for consultation; meet with trade union or employee representatives if they exist, or with the workforce itself to explain the situation and arrange for representatives to be nominated.

You will also need to provide information to the purchaser, such as the identities of transferring employees and any collective agreements or issues.

There are many more steps to selling your business, but this gives an indication of the level of care and detail you need to take when selling, not least to ensure you adequately protect the affected employees.

Most importantly, don't leave anything to the last minute.

Agree a timetable for the sale and adhere to it, and remember: communication is key to ensuring the business stays on track.

■ **Family succession in business is becoming more rare as new generations are less likely to take over the family firm. As a result, many owners are considering selling when it's time to retire. Duncan Cochrane-Dyet, transaction support partner at DSH Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors, offers advice.**



SELLING ADVICE:
Duncan Cochrane-Dyet

'Garden suburb' town plan scoops top design award

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

ARCHITECTS behind the controversial housing development at Chilmington Green, near Ashford, have been handed a top industry award.

The Chilmington Green "master plan" sets out a vision for a garden suburb outside Ashford that will include the building of 5,750 homes, a high street and a market square.

Architect firm John Thompson & Partners (JTP) designed the garden city and according to judges for the Placemaking Awards "demonstrated how a development plan or master plan has, or will have, a positive impact on the physical or environmental quality of a place or the economic or social well-being of its community".

Spokesperson for the development

consortium behind the plans Ian Bull said: "We are delighted that Chilmington Green has been recognised by the Placemaking Awards and are looking forward to delivering a quality development that the community can be proud of."

Not that everyone has been quite so receptive to the proposals.

“We are delighted Chilmington Green was recognised by the awards and are looking forward to delivering a quality development...”

Currently, Chilmington Green is a tiny hamlet with just a handful of homes.

The development will transform it into a minor town, with plans to provide additional links from the

M20 to service the development.

Locals in Ashford, who have witnessed an enormous explosion of new homes being built in and around the town over the last 20 years, have rebelled.

Despite a petition of more than 8,000 signatures against the proposals being delivered to 10 Downing Street, the green light to continue the application process was given by government planning inspectors in May 2013.

In October, Ashford Borough Council and the Chilmington Green Consortium composed a 'quality agreement' outlining 32 assurances and commitments that developers would have to stick to if they wanted to build the garden city over the next 20 to 25 years.

Conservative leader of Ashford council Gerry Clarkson believes this latest accolade for the development is a sign of things to come.

He said: "We pride ourselves on en-



GARDEN SUBURB: Controversial plans for 5,750 new homes near Ashford



suring quality development and at Chilmington Green we have set demanding requirements from the outset. I am in no doubt that it is this thorough approach that has led to this accolade.

"We are confident this will ensure future residents of Chilmington Green will be proud to live there."

The plans would also see the creation of a countryside park, a secondary school, four primary schools and a supermarket.

Although seeming likely, the final plans have not yet been given the all clear and a spokesman for Ashford Borough Council said this week: "An outline planning application was submitted in August 2012 and at present the council is waiting for amendments to be submitted as a result of the formal consultation stage."

"Once they are received and re-consultation taken place, the application is likely to be reported to planning committee later this year, with the determination being made late 2014/early 2015."

« Continued from page 51

to open in the UK and we know there are people here that we can help to make self-employment a reality.

"This could be the route back into work for people who have been made redundant, are unemployed, or struggle to find work that suits their needs, and we want to help facilitate this transition and make their business a success."

Whether these centres provide a good business atmosphere or they have spotted a gap in the market, the popularity of the pay-as-you-go style offices seems to be increasing.

Kent workspace-provider Regus has set up its 'Express' facility at the Clacket Lane service station on the M25 to offer an office environment to those constantly on the road.

The drop-in service offers shared workspaces, ThinkPods (private workstations), meeting rooms and business support such as cloud-based printing.

Working from the Express facility costs between £5 per hour or £10 per day and Regus say less than 10 per cent of remote workers want to operate from home, thus creating huge demand for this "third-place" business centre.

The idea of co-working in small hubs came to Maidstone in early January, when Union23 set up shop in the town centre to offer space to sole traders, start-up businesses and remote workers. They offer their office-style facilities for £30 per month.

Union23 co-founder Jonnie Jensen believes large offices and wasted space are a thing of the past for businesses looking to save cash on renting property.

He said: "Gone are the days of businesses tak-



ing two floors of an office block for 300 people and with the swathe of empty offices across Maidstone, this is a problem. Turning them residential will kill, not save, the town centre. We need a co-working, collaborative business community of start-up and growing companies.

"What we have today in business is the opportunity to start a company with just a laptop, an idea, high-speed internet connection and a supportive community. This is the community we need to foster across Maidstone."

A recent survey by online magazine Desk-mag revealed the number of flexible spaces around the UK has increased 271 per cent.

One of the companies already making use of the flexible space at Union23 is web design agency, Squiders.

Director of Squiders Kris Jeary explained: "I needed to take that first step away from a home office as the business grew but making the jump to managed offices was proving difficult when factoring in rent, rates, power and telecoms."

"We moved into Union23 as an anchor tenant in October and it is no exaggeration to say it has really focused our efforts."

■ FITNESS group Bannatyne has become the latest one of our advertisers to win a special wrap-around on a future edition of Kent on Sunday. Its name was drawn from the hat by KoS publisher Simon Irwin. **The advertisement will appear on a future edition.**

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Ministry of Defence **sbsa**

National Apprenticeship Week

MARCH 3-7, 2014

Chamber putting businesses in touch with young creatives

KENT Channel Chamber of Commerce is leading a campaign to support cultural and creative businesses in east Kent and their engagement with apprenticeships.

Working with the National Apprenticeship Service and key local stakeholders, the chamber will help to break down the barriers which exist for businesses recruiting more young people.

It is also hoping to take full advantage of the wealth of financial incentives within the area to develop new apprenticeship opportunities in this sector.

East Kent is at the forefront of developing a new wave of creative businesses, and with clusters of these already thriving in the coastal towns of Folkestone, Margate and

Deal, this sector now represents a significant and growing proportion of the business community.

Peter Hobbs, special projects director for Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce, is leading this initiative and is looking forward to supporting many of these businesses in their efforts to expand during the year ahead.

"Our chamber has an increasing number of members in this sector and this has already given us a key insight into the issues surrounding skills and training in the creative and cultural industries," he said.

"As a fully independent, not-for-profit organisation, we intend to target our efforts and working with local partners ensure these exciting businesses can gain access to the pool of talent locally available.

"It's also important to highlight



HELP: Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce will be holding a free workshop at Folkestone's Quarterhouse, above

many of the attractive funding options currently available to these businesses – from £1,500 to £200,000 – with some funds being exclusive to different parts of east Kent, such as Romney Marsh, Shepway and Thanet.

"The chamber's role will be to provide accessible routes to these funding opportunities and create relationships with local stakeholders that ensure each participating business enjoys tangible benefits.

"We have recently relocated our

chamber headquarters to The Workshop in the heart of Folkestone's Creative Quarter, so we are in an ideal position to work alongside many of these businesses and support them during the year ahead."

Kent Channel Chamber is organising two free workshops in March for creative and cultural businesses to find out more about the benefits of the apprenticeship programme and the grants available.

They will also be able to meet some of the local young people eager

to start their career in the creative and cultural industries.

The first of these lunchtime events takes place on March 20 at the Quarterhouse in Folkestone followed by another at Turner Contemporary in Margate on March 28.

If you are a creative business based in east Kent and are interested in receiving support from Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce contact Tracy Reynolds on 01303 722227 or email: tracy.reynolds@kentchannel-chamber.co.uk

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We are happy to discuss any questions you may have. Contact us on 01227 844449 or email us at info@learnto.org.uk

National Apprenticeship Week

MARCH 3-7, 2014

First traineeship students begin on path to employment after completing course

THE first MidKent College students to be enrolled on the Government's new traineeships scheme have begun their journey towards employment.

Traineeships are for young people who want to work, but who require extra help to gain an apprenticeship or job, with the initiative helping them develop the skills and experience most employers are looking for.

MidKent College is currently running a pilot scheme based on these principles and recently held a celebratory tea party for trainees who completed a two-week course designed to prepare them for the workplace.

"The young people covered many aspects of employability throughout the course," said Becky Farley, coordinator of the college's JobShop, which developed the scheme.

"This included self-confidence, effective teamworking and the importance of delivering excellent customer service.



WORKFORCE: These students enrolled on the Government's new scheme to help enhance their employment skills

"The celebration also marked the official 'handing over' of our students to the employers so they can begin putting theory into practice.

"Hopefully they will all be taken on as apprentices or full-time employees in the future."

Also in attendance at the tea party were representatives from Medway Council, the Skills Funding Agency and the Kent Association of Further Education Colleges, as well as employers who have supported the programme by offering work experience placements including Medway Norse and CVMinder.

Meanwhile, skills minister Matthew Hancock praised the college's dedication to traineeships when he visited the Medway Campus prior to being a panellist on the BBC's current affairs show Question Time, which was filmed at the same location earlier this month.

■ Visit www.mkcbusiness.co.uk for more information about Business Services at MidKent College.



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An ingenious way to give you sheds more room

Shortage of space in the home is a common problem, but rather than taking the drastic step of moving, a solution is closer than you think, says **Julia Gray**

GARDEN sheds don't have the most inspirational image; somewhere to dump unwanted DIY materials, unwashed garden tools and (but for that one sunny day of summer) unused outdoor furniture.

But it is time for an image overhaul, because with a bit of work and imagination, sheds can be a perfect solution to a lack of space inside your home.

As long as a garden shed is easily accessible from the house and (preferably) has electricity, a water supply and insulation, there is no reason it can't be used as an extension of your normal rooms.

Because it is separate from the main house, it has the added bonus of being an ideal place to do quiet (or noisy) activities, with many people opting to turn a shed into a workroom/studio, music or games room, home office, gym, or playroom/den – pretty much whatever you need, in fact.

Fitting out your shed with everything required to make it

usable and comfortable won't necessarily be cheap, but it will undoubtedly be cheaper than moving.

You can convert an existing shed, or buy one tailored to your needs, complete with all mod-cons.

Specialist companies produce off-the-shelf and bespoke designs, including far more contemporary garden buildings than traditional-looking ones, with everything included for a fully functioning room.

While you may not have the budget for a garden room, which can cost thousands of pounds, a bog-standard shed is much more affordable.

Sheds are usually wooden, though they can be metal which are often easier and quicker to build, tend to be better value for money, and need very little maintenance. Wooden sheds, on the other hand, must first be treated with wood preserver (unless pre-treated) and a wood stain or paint, and then maintained with more coats from time

to time to prevent the wood from rotting and warping.

Metal sheds are more resistant to fire, rodents and insects, although they can be less able to withstand storms and high winds, are noisy when raining, and are hot inside in summer and cold in winter.

Wooden sheds generally look more attractive and because they're made of a natural material,

“Fitting out your shed with everything required to make it usable won't be cheap, but it will be cheaper than moving...”

they blend into the garden better.

It is also easy to jazz them up – garden-wood paints have come a long way since brown was the only choice, and you can make quite a statement with colour.

Stripes, for example, are brilliant for a beach-hut effect, while cream

and pastel greens and blues are perfect for a pretty, but not too jarring, pop of colour.

All sheds need a firm base, typically paving stones or a concrete slab, but wooden sheds should come with their own floor, whereas metal sheds usually have the concrete or paving base as the floor – so it's essential to get it the right size.

It's certainly possible to lay the base and build the shed yourself if you're an experienced DIYer, but novices may struggle.

An easier option is to get a gardener or builder to do it for you, although this can be expensive, especially with a large shed.

If you live in a flat or maisonette, or a house that has had permitted development rights removed, planning permission is required to put up a garden shed – incredible as this may seem.

For information on planning rules and building regulations for garden buildings, click on the interactive house's shed at www.planningportal.gov.uk.

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QUOTE: DC-KOS

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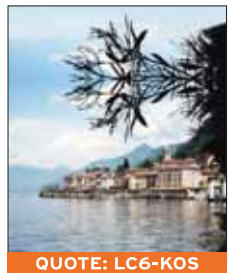
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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel to Nice • 2 nights hotel stay in or near Nice (Half Board outbound and *B&B on return) • Return ferry to Corsica • 7 nights half board hotel stay in Calvi, Corsica • All excursions • Transfers abroad

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QUOTE: FE3/10-KOS

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QUOTE: HP5-2-KOS

Note: Price of Holidays by Air subject to flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Kia Soul II (probable ratings)

Price:	To be confirmed
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Mazda CX-5

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LOVELY RUNNER: Kia's revamped Soul will be a more premium model than its 2009 predecessor; good news for drivers and passengers alike

Kia's Soul star... part two

Every range needs a style icon, but Kia may have conjured up two stunners; their Sportage SUV and, soon to arrive in second generation form, the Soul...

MINI does it, VW's Beetle does it and Fiat's 500 will undoubtedly do it. Retain an iconic design, that is, while still developing an all-new model.

So it's no surprise that having created its own Soul icon – a rather honest and functional cross between an SUV and MPV – Kia should choose to reinvent the profile for the second generation car due in a few months.

But if you thought the same looks meant the same underpinnings, you'd be wrong.

It has a longer and wider chassis for more passenger and luggage space, and this new platform is also 30 per cent stiffer, to improve the Soul's driving dynamics.

Kia says the new model will also be more premium than its 2009 predecessor; moving upmarket seems to be a mantra with each new Kia model as the Korean marque seeks to put its 'value brand' image behind it, presumably mindful cheap Chinese imports cannot be far away.

A big plus for the original car was a funky yet practical body, taking up not much more road space than a supermini and at an affordable price.

It even had a USP [unique selling point]: it was the first time on the UK market that a rear parking monitor had been mounted within the rear view mirror – the logical place if you think about it.

Mindful of the customisation craze sparked by the Mini, Kia also offered a range of regularly rotated special editions targeting different customer groups: the Soul Burner looked a real mean machine and had a big sound system with illuminated pulsing speakers, while the Shaker had a



more refined décor – naturally.

Not long after it arrived, the car also benefited from Kia extending its unique seven-year warranty scheme – still the UK leader – to all cars in its range.

However, the powertrain choice was small and even the diesel wasn't particularly good on fuel or emissions, and it could be argued the car's dimensions were perhaps a little too snug – those in the back had to sit quite upright.

While smooth-riding, the Soul was also rather lacklustre to drive.

However, as Kia has shown continually by quantum leaps in design and quality with each new generation of its other models, we can expect the new Soul to address these shortcomings.

We've already heard it should be better to drive thanks to suspension upgrades.

Kia engineers have also worked on refinement or reduction of NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) and

we can expect an upgraded level of powertrains already seen in other Kias such as the excellent Ceed hatchback.

The emphasis on a more premium image will also be evident with LED lighting front and back, while the original car's preponderance of hard plastics inside makes way for upmarket soft-touch materials.

An eight-inch touch screen bringing cutting-edge connectivity with smartphones and personal devices is also promised.

Kia says passengers will enjoy a larger and significantly quieter cabin that has better head and legroom front and back, and should be easier to get in and out of, while cargo capacity is up 14 litres, to 685 litres.

The driver will also appreciate better visibility either side of the windscreen pillars too, just one of the gains from using higher strength steels that have also allowed body weight to be reduced and improved the car's on-road dynamics.



Other view...

the Petrolhead

Never liked the bread van looks, so this new one won't impress me either, but it sounds like it might be a better drive.

She says

I wasn't sure about the original, which was a bit upright and cramped inside, but it looks like Kia has addressed these issues

the Eco-warrior

It's practical and doesn't hog masses of space or masquerade as a 4x4, but I'll wait for more news on economy and emissions.

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Warranty birthday

KIA'S launch of its European designed and manufactured Ceed in February 2007, also challenged new car warranties in the UK, by extending manufacturer protection for owners to seven years.

Seven years on and a few other makers have upped their protection, but none has yet matched the Korean marque, which also extended the seven-year deal to all its cars, duly applying it to the all-new second generation Ceed (pictured).



Newcomer boost

MAZDA must be happy with its newly-launched all-new Mazda3 mid-size hatchback; sales in the first full month ran a third ahead of forecast.

It has also helped boost brand sales by the same in the current financial year to date.

Benefiting from the Japanese marque's weight, fuel and emissions-saving Skyactiv technologies, and some smart styling, the Mazda3 is also shortlisted for next month's European Car of the Year award.



BMW's green card

BMW has confirmed the launch of its next generation X3 SUV in June, priced from £30,990.

It has its work cut out, most notably against the Range Rover Evoque, where production is struggling to cope with global demand.

But the new X3 aims to play the green card well with a front-wheel drive diesel version claimed to offer 60.1mpg combined fuel consumption and 124g/km CO2 emissions – impressive for this class.

Renault Captur Dynamique MediaNav TCe 90

Price:	£14,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax: £30/year (zero year one)	
Best rival:	Peugeot 2008

Kent dealers

Motorline:

Ashford	0845 129 4488
Canterbury	0845 129 4483
Maidstone	0845 129 2944

Renault's funky chunky captivator

Steve Loader feels the French carmaker's Captur certainly lives up to its name. You'll be caught by the sharp SUV-style, lively interior and the variety of cool customisation options



ALL JAZZED UP: Renault's 'urban crossover', the Captur, can be customised to suit your taste, with plenty of added extras which will appeal to families

for design flair after a few duds.

And it shows too that the French, who didn't 'get' the SUV craze for a long time, now have the taste for it.

The Captur (from £12,495) is also a fine Gallic response to the BMW Mini, thanks to many customising options, helped by the car's contrasting roof choices and vibrant colours.

The test car came in a burnt

orange with a white roof; along with the distinctive black and chrome sill, the roof made the car shed bulk visually, though the Captur is really quite compact anyway, being based on and having an on-road footprint only slightly larger than the Clio.

The ability to pilot it around car parks easily is then enhanced by light steering and a loftier driving

position from within an airy cabin featuring clever storage.

Sliding rear seats also allow boot space/rear legroom to be balanced according to need.

The boot itself, while not massive with the rear seats pushed back fully, does have a double-sided false floor – one side carpeted, and the other wipe clean for muddy boots and other wet weather stowage – and conceals further space below.

On the road the Captur has a typically French ability to glide comfortably, except for occasional crashing vibrations on an equally typical British rural lane ravaged by winter.

Surprisingly though, for a higher-riding and softly sprung vehicle, the Captur does not lean extravagantly on the bends – no doubt helped by the weight-saving techniques used for the car.

Three engines are offered: two turbocharged petrol units of 89 and 119bhp and a 89bhp 1.5-litre turbodiesel. All feature stop-start, plus switchable eco mode fuel and emissions saving technology.

The test car had the 89bhp three-cylinder petrol engine – the entry powertrain – which is understandably popular due to price, but a little close to running out of puff under load, while also sounding like a washing machine on full spin speed.

Having previously driven the diesel, featuring one of Renault's best recent engines, I'd be more inclined towards that for its relative smoothness, low down punch and superior eco credentials – CO2 emissions of just 95g/km exempt it from road tax, while official combined mpg is an impressive 76.4 – but it does add £1,400 to the price of your Captur.

YOU have to wonder whether the designers of the Renault Captur's interior are funk music fans.

How else do you explain the bungee cords on the front seatbacks that are meant to be map pockets, yet more like the strings for an alternative bass guitar?

It wasn't long before our 10-year-old was slapping out a rhythm that wouldn't have disgraced a disco funk hit. Having asked him to desist with this, and then with pulling and releasing the strings to slap against the seat back, he then had a further warning for unzipping the equally funky removable and washable seat covers – a useful £100 option family buyers will love.

Yes, the Captur is all about funk and fun.

Renault calls it an 'urban crossover', which means nothing really, but is as good a label as any for a car with high-riding off-road style but not a hint of actual 4x4 ability.

However, with no need to allow space for an extra transmission at the back, it means there is bags of room in the rear of the car and the boot that, combined with decent headroom, makes it a far better bet for families than its ugly cousin, the Nissan Juke.

Along with the latest Clio hatchback, the Captur's assured stance also restores the self-styled Creator of Automobiles' reputation



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Christine Morgan /Administrative Manager
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Previous applicants need not apply

This post is exempt from the Sex Discrimination Act Section 7 (c & f)



The Spencer Private Hospitals is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Night Duty) – Part Time

(20 hours per week)
£25,000 per annum (pro-rata)

Dependant on Experience
Based in Margate
Qualifications

Registered Nurse Level 1

Evidence of Continuous Professional Development

Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures.

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Mary Guarnieri, Matron 01843 234252

Physiotherapist– Part Time

(30 hours per week)
£27,000 per annum (pro-rata)

Based in Margate
Qualifications

Minimum 2 years post graduate experience

Current registration with Health Professional Council

Experience of assessing & treating orthopaedic inpatients & MSK related outpatients

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Sarah Robinson, Physiotherapy Manager 01843 234555

Administrator – Full time

£16,600.07 per annum

To include evenings and weekends

Based in Ashford but the successful candidate will be expected to travel to other sites in Dover and Margate
Qualifications

Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent)

2 years working with the public

Word/Excel, IT skills, E-mail, Internet

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Nikkie Cooke, Outpatient Administration Supervisor 01233 616201

Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date for all vacancies 21st February 2014

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Wright

East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Private Hospitals
2nd Floor, Atina House
5 Bench Street, Dover
Kent CT16 1JH

Telephone: 01304 245961

Fax: 01304 207320

E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check



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**Please call Matt Bevan or Anne Eastwood
on 01227 818190**



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Previous applicants need not apply to both positions

The above vacancies are available due to company expansion

Contact either

Paul on 01580 893714 paul@staplehursttransits.co.uk Or
Darren on 01580 893714 darren@staplehursttransits.co.uk

Stating which vacancy you are applying for



Registered Nurses required Applecroft Nursing Home in Dover

Applecroft Nursing Home is a leading provider of residential and nursing services for older people across the UK.

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Tissue Viability
Dementia & Mental Health
Extended role of the Nurse

For further details either write or email to:

Applecroft Nursing Home
Sanctuary Close, River
Dover, Kent CT17 0ER

Phone 01304 821331

Manager- Barbara.alison@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk
Clinical Manager- Brendan.o'connor@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College are currently looking for people to join our busy state of the art college theatre at our Medway Campus. We currently have vacancies within the following

Full Time Venue Manager

- fixed term contract

Salary: up to £24,694
depending on experience and qualifications

Location: Medway

Closing: 17 February 2014

MidKent College is looking for a highly motivated venue manager to develop and co-ordinate a programme of events that will take place in the state of the art college theatre. The successful candidate will take the lead in developing a programme of employability skills within the Production and Performing Arts department. The ideal candidate will have an excellent understanding of current repertoire, production experience and have excellent administrative and interpersonal skills. The successful candidate will also be required to work flexibility including some evenings and weekends.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone who wants to work within an educational environment to develop and promote the arts provision within the Medway local community.

To apply for this position please contact
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.



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- Do you have good IT skills?

If you feel that you can answer 'Yes' to all of the above, Northfleet Technology College is the place for you!

An opportunity for a General Support Assistant position has arisen, with duties similar to that of a Teaching Assistant.

The working hours are 27.5 hours per week, Term Time (38 weeks per annum) for an initial 1 years fixed term

contract. The salary is commensurate to these terms.

Appointment will be subject to satisfactory safeguarding & vetting checks including references & a Fully Enhanced CRB.

Please contact the School Office for an Application Form & further information about the position.

Closing date: Tuesday 25 February 2014

Further details are available from Miss E Stuart

Email: office@ntc.kent.sch.uk

Web: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01474 533802

Head: Jane Partridge

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School Direct Teacher Training within Swale Academies Trust

Monday 24 February 2014

at Westlands School, Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Drop in between 5.00 - 7.30 pm,
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Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, invites high quality graduates interested in a career in teaching to consider the School Direct Training Programme 2014/15. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary or scholarship, subject to status.

Please visit our website for further details
www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk

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For preliminary enquiries you are welcome to e mail:
schooldirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk

School Direct applications can only be made through UCAS Teacher Training, www.ucas.com/teacher-training

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act

Notice of Applications

MA/12/1783/N - OAKLEA, FORSTAL LANE, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1LB - Change of use of land involving the stationing of a mobile home to create a separate residential use to provide care for occupant of Oaklea. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0085/S - WILLOW GARDENS, LINDFIELD FARM, WILLOW LANE, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PE - Change of use of land for mixed use of gypsy accommodation and the keeping of horses, together with stables/utility blocks. Amended (reduced) application to that previously submitted under reference MA/12/0791. **Reason: 6**

MA/14/0096/N - LAND ADJACENT CORPUS CHRISTI HALL, FAIRMEADOW, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Residential development for 21 (no) apartments including undercroft parking and associated works. **Reason: 1, 2, 6**

MA/14/0107/S - OAKDENE FARM, MAIDSTONE ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3LS - Erection of a general purpose agricultural storage and workshop building and hard surface yard area. **Reason: 6**

MA/14/0126/N - ST LUKE'S CENTRE, 33, FOLEY STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5BD - Demolition of existing buildings yard and the erection of 6 (4 x 3 bed and 2 x 4 bed) houses in a terrace. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0134/N - CHILLINGTON HOUSE, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LH - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations to facilitate the change of use of the building to 4 No. flats. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0142/N - 21, BREWER STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1RU - Retrospective application for the conversion of existing building to form 5 flats with side and rear extensions and the erection of a self contained 2 storey 2 bed unit in the rear garden. **Reason: 2**

MA/14/0145/S - INTEGRA, BIRCHOLT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9GQ - Application for full planning permission for the erection of 7 units for a mixture of B1, B2 and B8 uses, including the renovation of the existing building, with appropriate provision for access and car parking. **Reason: 6**

MA/14/0150/S - THE LODGE, LITTLE CHEVENEY FARM, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NX - Proposed use of farm office and store to holiday let with covered storage, ancillary garden storage including alterations to fenestration. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0152/S - BROOK FARM BARN, HEADCORN ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EH - Erection of single storey side extension to both sides, rooflights and replacement windows and doors. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0153/S - BROOK FARM BARN, HEADCORN ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EH - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations including new staircase, demolition of porch and side extension, erection of single storey side extension to both sides, rooflights and replacement windows and doors. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0155/S - LAND AT ALLINGHAM FARM, SUMMERHILL ROAD, MARDEN, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 9DB - Installation of solar panels and associated equipment to enable energy generation for the farm and associated businesses and connection to the national grid for any surplus. **Reason: 9**

MA/14/0157/S - 65, THE QUARRIES, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NJ - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations to master bedroom. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0159/S - 71, HIGH STREET, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9QA - An application for listed building consent for the construction of three brick buttresses to match existing, supporting west wall. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0162/N - FORMER ARMY AND NAVY STORE CORNER OF WEEK STREET A, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Change of use of part of ground floor to A3 (restaurant) use. **Reason: 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **2nd March 2014**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 16th February 2014



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PLANNING

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00607 Reserved matters application for 74 dwellings (landscaping, access, scale, layout and appearance) details pursuant to outline permission DOV/10/1011 phase 1A (amended details)
Site at Phase 1A – Whitfield Urban Extension, Whitfield, Dover **RMLB**

DOV/13/01073 Retrospective application for the installation of weatherboarding to the front elevation
Clifton Cottage, Front Street, Ringwould, Deal, CT14 8PH **CON**

DOV/13/01076 Conversion of garage to habitable room and associated internal and external works
Golden Pond, 10 Golden Street, Deal, CT14 6JU **LCN**

DOV/14/00028 Retrospective application for the erection of a rear conservatory extension
37 Admiralty Mews, Walmer, CT14 7AZ **LCN**

DOV/14/00065 Erection of a two storey side extension (existing extension to be demolished)
Littledown, 36 Granville Road, St. Margaret's Bay, CT15 6DS **CON**

DOV/14/00082 Erection of a terrace of three dwellings (existing buildings to be demolished)
10-12, South Court, Deal, CT14 7AN **RSCLC**

DOV/14/00089 Display of a blue plaque
Hougomont, North Barrack Road, Walmer, CT14 7DU **LBC**

DOV/13/00867 Proposed new foodstore, doctor's surgery and pharmacy, together with associated car parking, landscaping, courtyard and service yard (amended and additional plans)
Land Adjacent to, 10 Dover Road, Sandwich, CT13 0BN **ALL**

DOV/13/01075 Conversion of garage to habitable room and associated external works
Golden Pond, 10 Golden Street, Deal, CT14 6JU **LBC**

DOV/14/00027 Retrospective application for the erection of a rear conservatory extension
37 Admiralty Mews, Walmer, CT14 7AZ **LBC**

DOV/14/00062 Creation of vehicular access and erection of fencing and gates
Land off Coldred Road, Eynhorpe, CT15 4BE **CON**

DOV/14/00069 Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DOV/13/00366 to allow amendments to the buildings footprint (application under section 73)
Site R/O Former Lagan Restaurant, 60 The Street, Ash, Sandwich, CT3 2EW **SLC**

DOV/14/00087 Change of use and conversion of storage area to a self contained flat and associated external alterations
Clockwork Pharmacy, 7 High Street, Deal, CT14 7AA **CON**

DOV/14/00090 Installation of replacement window to ground floor
9 Athol Terrace, Dover, CT16 1LT **LBC**

DOV/14/00084 Section 73 application to vary conditions 2, 15, 17 and 18 of planning permission DOV/11/01049 (Erection of a hotel building with restaurants/bars (A3/A4) and mast (to house telecommunications equipment) with LED screen, construction of a vehicular access, hard and soft landscaping and car parking) to enable increase in building footprint, increase in bedroom numbers from 108 to 122, reduction in restaurant floorspace and other internal/external design alterations.
Site West Side of Woolcomber Street & South of, St James Street, Dover **MLC**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
CON – Within Conservation Area **LBC** – The proposal affects a Listed Building
SLC – To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
RMLB – proposal is a major development, affects the setting of a listed building and affects a public right of way
RSCLC – Affects the setting of a Listed Building, a Conservation area and a public right of way
LCN – Listed Building in a Conservation Area
MLC – Major development to affect listed building in a conservation area.
ALL – The development affects a Listed Building, a Conservation Area, a public right of way, is a Major Development and a Departure from the Development plan
Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked “for the attention of Planning”. Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich
Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.
Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

Town and Country Planning Acts
The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

14/00206/LBC **Springhill Oast Standen Street, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent: For construction of detached garage (LB)

14/00271/FULL **OS Plot 8200 Badsell Road, Capel**
- Development of 22.3ha solar photovoltaic park on land 120m south of village, with attendant equipment and infrastructure (MAJOR)

14/00122/LBC **Evernden Interiors LTD Ground Floor Everdens, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Install rigid stainless steel vent to canopy through existing brick work. Paint the exterior of the shop in Middleton Pink (Farrow & Ball) (LB)

14/00264/LBC **The Museum Carriers Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Install four steel shoes to support beams where end bearing has failed or is inadequate (LB)

14/00292/FULL **Rammell House Cranbrook School The Hill, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Removal of existing boundary wall, posts, hedge and surface area to front of Rammell House; Construction of new boundary wall with bricks, timber fencing, concrete posts and hard surface with new drainage system and kerbing; “In” and “Out” brick piers retained and repaired as required (CA) (LB)

14/00252/FULL **Sir Thomas Dunk Almshouses Rye Road, Hawkhurst**
- Internal alterations by removing walls to form access to new disabled W.C. and enlarge tea room; Creation of additional car parking spaces including disabled parking (CA) (LB)

14/00254/LBC **Sir Thomas Dunk Almshouses Rye Road, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent-Internal alterations by removing walls to form access to new disabled W.C. and enlarge tea room; Creation of additional car parking spaces including disabled parking (LB)

14/00265/HOUSE **Bassetts Oast Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Alteration works to existing garage block including insertion of dormer windows (LB)

14/00239/LBC **Court Lodge Church Road, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Strengthening of library floor in basement area (LB)

14/00107/FULL **43C Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Replacement of window with window and door-Retrospective (CA)

14/00202/FULMC **Halls Second Hand Bookshop 20-22 Chapel Place, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Raise ground floor level, restore or replace windows and replace staircase (CA)

14/00218/FULL **Second Floor Front Office Kelly House, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use from B1 Business (office use) to D1 Non-residential Institutions-use as portrait artist's studio (CA)

14/00293/FULL **Duke Of York 17 The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Internal alterations to relocate toilets to first floor and repositioning of bar counter. Provision of food hoist and false stack to contact new kitchen extract (CA) (LB)

14/00298/LBC **Duke Of York 17 The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to relocate toilets to first floor and repositioning of bar counter. Provision of food hoist and false stack to contact new kitchen extract (LB)

14/00320/FULMC T **he Old Fish Market The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Temporary external decking (CA) (LB)

14/00321/LBC **The Old Fish Market The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent-Change of use from Tourist Information Centre to licensed restaurant and cafe including external and internal alterations (LB)

14/00203/HOUSE **The Rectory Bodiam Road, Sandhurst**
- Demolition of single storey rear extension and garage and erection of new two storey extension and double garage (revision to TW/11/01457 previously approved) (LB)

14/00230/LBC **Clock Tower Monument The Green, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Refurbishment of the Sandhurst Clock Tower clock dials (LB)

14/00295/HOUSE **2 Little Crouch Rye Road, Sandhurst**
- Two-storey side extension and alterations (CA) (LB)


14/00296/LBC **2 Little Crouch Rye Road, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent-Two-storey side extension and alterations (LB)


13/03768/LBC **Shirley Hall Leggs Lane, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent-Installation of external flue to roof of stable block for biomass boiler (LB) (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROV) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 7 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 15 February 2014



**Swale**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

- The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
- The application is for a Major Development.
- The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 03 MARCH 2014.

SW/12/1311:
Redevelopment of existing redundant farm building including elements of demolition - redevelopment proposals to provide mixed residential development for a total of 19 No. Mixed dwellings of 2 storey and single storey construction together with their associated garages and parking barns and improvement of existing vehicular access – Scooces Farm, Scooces Road, MINSTER; **REASONS 2 & 3**

SW/13/1515:
Listed Building Consent to replace single pane glass with double glazed panes in original frames (Replacement of glass only) – 12 Mansion House, Lees Court Road, SHELDWICH; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/1548:
Erection of stables, ménage, horse walker and lighting. Change of use for horse grazing – Land Adj 35 Orchard Way, EASTCHURCH; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0008:
Listed Building Consent for alterations to an existing 1980's bathroom/lobby extension including replacing bath with shower cubicle, replacing external door and windows and raising ceiling height in bathroom and installation of conservation rooflight – 5 Walnut Tree Cottages, South Street, BOUGHTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/14/0038 & SW/14/0078:
Proposed replacement of non-original shop front within existing opening and internal alterations to convert existing retail unit into two self-contained retail units – Bundells of Sittingbourne, 33 & 37 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/14/0041:
Loft conversion with dormer windows – 9 Primrose Grove, BREDGAR; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0048:
The erection of 4 no. extract flues to roof from paint booth – Park Central, Culler Drive, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0086:
Loft conversion incorporating rear dormer and rear conservatory style velux windows – 8 Becket Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0092:
Erection of 6 two bedroom flats with associated parking – Land to north of Royal Fountain Mews, West Street, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/14/0100:
Demolition of existing stables & erection of 4No detached dwellings & associated outbuilding, landscaping & adaption of existing access – Stables rear of 82-84 School Lane, LOWER HALSTOW; **REASON 4**

SW/14/0103:
Demolition of single storey rear extension. Erection of 2 storey and single storey rear extensions. Removal of existing garden shed and erection of new garden shed – 13 Front Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0106:
Proposed detached house with associated parking. (Amendments to approved scheme SW/12/0867) – Land Adj 157 Peregrine Drive, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 4**

SW/14/0107:
Proposal for new pitched roof to existing outbuilding with temporary permission for use of outbuilding for residential use during demolition and construction of new dwelling on the site – 1-2 Woodgate Cottages, Woodgate Lane, BORDEN; **REASON 4**

SW/14/0109:
Variation of condition (2) of planning permission SW/12/1103 to allow a further 2 years to construct retail units – Parcel 4, Thistle Hill, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0114:
Replacement agricultural chemical store 80,000 litre diesel tank; associated handstanding and surface water drainage system, interceptor and bio-bed – Hempstead Farm, Hempstead Lane, TONGE; **REASON 4**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817056

To advertise in this section



01303 817056

Planning applications



Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
 Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
 Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/02229/FUL: Leonora, Priory Lane, Herne Bay, CT6 5UH Proposed single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Bonny**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02275/FUL: 28 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NW Loft conversion with a rear dormer. **Applicant: Mr C Threfall**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/02375/FUL: 6 The Friars, Canterbury, CT1 2AS To install two gateposts and double gates on access lane from King Street to Friends Meeting House. **Applicant: Ms U Fuller** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00004/FUL: Little Beck, 24 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UH Proposed front entrance porch incorporating cloakroom.
Applicant: Mr Snelling Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00045/FUL: 1 Church Lane, Chartham, CT4 7LA Proposed extensions and alterations. **Applicant: Ms Brennan and Mr Ray**
 Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00085/FUL: Nackington Farm, Nackington, Bridge, CT1 3NU The installation of a Solar Photovoltaic park complete with mounting fixtures, security fence, inverters, CCTV and all necessary ancillary equipment required for such proposal. (Site C) **Applicant: Green Energy**
 Reason: Public right of way/major development
CA/14/00086/FUL: Nackington Farm, Nackington, Lower Hardres, CT1 3NU The installation of a solar farm and solar generation equipment complete with mounting equipment, security fence, CCTV and all necessary ancillary equipment associated with such proposal. (Site B)
Applicant: Green Energy Reason: Public right of way/major development
CA/14/00087/FUL: Nackington Farm, Nackington, Lower Hardres, CT1 3NU The construction of a solar PV generation farm complete with security cameras, security fence, landscaping, screening, footpaths, mounting equipment, inverters, and all necessary equipment. (Site A)
Applicant: Green Energy UK Reason: Public right of way/major/conservation area.
CA/14/00105/FUL: 60 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JZ Demolition of existing garage and installation of railings and gates to site frontage
Applicant: Mr and Mrs W Poon Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00107/FUL: 78 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JQ Rear ground floor and first floor single storey extensions to residential dwelling.
Applicant: Mr G Turner Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00182/FUL: 38 Pound Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BZ Ground floor extension to rear, additional door to west elevation and replacement window frames. **Applicant: Mr Pilard** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00186/FUL: King Ethelbert Inn, Reculver Lane, Herne Bay, CT6 6SU Replacement of all existing windows with white uPVC framed windows. **Applicant: The King Ethelbert Inn** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00194/LB: The Treasury, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QW Subdivision of existing single dwelling into two dwellings including replacement of existing window with new front door and access steps and associated external alterations to hard and soft landscaping.
Applicant: Mr T Carroll Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/14/00199/FUL: 13 Victoria Park, Herne Bay, CT6 5BJ Replacement uPVC front door and fanlight above and new uPVC window to rear (kitchen). **Applicant: Ms Steinberg** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00207/FUL: 30 Pound Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BZ Two storey rear extension with roof terrace over and dormer with French doors to flank roof slope of original dwelling. **Applicant: Mr D King** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00212/FUL: 2 Victoria Road, Canterbury, CT1 3SG Proposed loft conversion including the demolition of two chimneys and construct two dormer windows and four velux roof windows to the side and rear elevations. **Applicant: Mr Singh** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00228/FUL: 57 Sydenham Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HN Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Lambert** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00234/TPO: Nut Grove, The Street, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5HT Fell Scots Pine subject to TPO No2 1968. **Applicant: Mrs Dawkins**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00241/FUL: 27-31 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AP Proposed Change of Use of existing ground-floor Amusement Centre (sui generis) to a retail unit (A1). **Applicant: Cain's Amusements Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00243/FUL: 10 Mickleburgh Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 6AB Proposed loft conversion including a flat roof corner window to rear elevation, conservation roof light to front elevation and 'porch' style window to side elevation. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Carr** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00244/FUL: 24 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5JY Rear single-storey slate roof replacement with zinc roof and timber glazed lantern light, replacement window to first floor, replacement double door and sidescreen to rear, two solar panels to rear roof and internal works
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Sheardown Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00251/LB: 24 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5JY Rear single-storey slate roof replacement with zinc roof and timber glazed lantern light, replacement window to first floor, replacement double door and sidescreen to rear, two solar panels to rear roof and internal works
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Sheardown Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00252/FUL: Rose Cottage, 2 The Street, Barham, CT4 6PA Application for existing later rear extension to a grade II listed building (retrospective). **Applicant: Miss K Mackay** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00259/LB: Rose Cottage, 2 The Street, Barham, CT4 6PA Application for existing later rear extension to a grade II listed building (retrospective). **Applicant: Miss K Mackay** Reason: Work to a listed building
CA/14/00260/FUL: 56-60 New Dover Road, Canterbury Proposed canteen extension and partial demolition to front of existing canteen and side of existing residential accommodation to accommodate new extension. **Applicant: CATS College Canterbury** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc to arrive on or before Monday 10 March 2014.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
 Friday 14 February 2014

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)
KCC/AS/0034/2014 - Proposed development at High Halden WTW, Off Wrens Nest Road, High Halden, Ashford, Kent TN26 3NH

Southern Water Services is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for a Motor Control Centre Kiosk within High Halden Wastewater Treatment Works.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations:

- Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford
- Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SW/0025/2014 - Proposed development at Land at Tunstall Road, Tunstall, Sittingbourne, Kent

KCC is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for the construction of a two form entry primary school with associated external play areas and parking facilities.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

The proposed development is also near the Tunstall Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance and also may affect the setting of Listed Buildings.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planningrepresentations@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
 Head of Planning
 Applications Group
 Kent County Council
 Dated: 16th February 2014



Folkestone
 Hythe & Romney Marsh
 Shepway District Council
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0092/SH - 94 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2BE
 - Change of use of basement and ground floor from retail (Class A1) to financial and professional services (Class A2).
Y14/0097/SH - 29 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JJ
 - Erection of second floor extension, provision of balcony to first floor, re-cladding to external walls, replacement of existing garden room extension to provide utility room and other external alterations including alterations to the fenestration.
Y14/0109/SH - Elmsted Court Farm Elchin Hill Elmsted Kent TN25 5JN
 - Erection of lean-to extensions to an existing agricultural building.
Y14/0117/SH - Land rear 2 Tanners Hill Tanners Hill Hythe Kent
 - Felling of an Ash tree subject of Tree Preservation Order No.18 of 2012
Y13/1056/SH - 31 Victoria Road Hythe Kent CT21 6DR
 - Erection of a replacement dwelling.
Y13/0997/SH - Homestead Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent
 - Erection of a roof extension and balcony over existing garage to form an annex
Y13/1127/SH - Harbour Masters House Folkestone Harbour Harbour Approach Road Folkestone Kent CT20 1QH
 - The installation of a 18m monopole, 6 No. antennas, 2 No. 300mm microwave dishes, equipment cabinets, together with ancillary development (Telecommunications Development).

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
- + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
 Shepway District Council

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW161 (PART) CHARING)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP
AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2014**

The above named Order made on 31st January 2014 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath AW161 which commences at its junction with Public Footpath AW40 at TQ 9542 4863 and runs in a west-south-westerly through west-north-westerly direction for 70 metres to TQ 9535 4862, and will add a new length of Public Footpath AW161 with a width of 2 metres which commences at TQ 9542 4863 and runs in a south-westerly through west-south-westerly direction for 60 metres to a new kissing gate situated adjacent to the existing field gate at TQ 9537 4859, continuing in a north-westerly direction for 34 metres to rejoin the existing length of Public Footpath AW161 at TQ 9535 4862.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent in writing to Ms. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council (address as below) no later than Monday 17th March 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER231
IN THE PARISH OF CAPEL-LE-FERNE
PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER231
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(I),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ER231, from its junction with Alkham Valley Road for approximately 50 metres to TR2394, 4028 from the 3rd March 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is an alternative route which will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Denise Roffey.

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY
CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE291
IN THE PARISH OF AYLSHAM**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE291
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(I),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY
RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath EE291, from its junction with Cornwallis Avenue to its junction with EE291A from the 13th February 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen after 6 weeks.

The path is closed because resurfacing works are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Burgess Road, Public Footpath EE290 and Cornwallis Avenue and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Tom Kennedy
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR674 (PART) COWDEN)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2014**

The above named Order made on 31st January 2014 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath SR674 which commences at its junction with Bassetts Lane (opposite the property known as 'Bassetts') at TQ 4953 4131 and runs in a northerly direction for 106 metres to TQ 4952 4142, and will add a new length of Public Footpath SR674 with a width of 2 metres which commences at TQ 4952 4142 and runs in a south-westerly direction for 100 metres to a new junction with Bassetts Lane at TQ 4957 4133.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent in writing to Ms. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council (address as below) no later than Monday 17th March 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - IN THE PARISH OF SHEERNESS

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY
CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS1
IN THE PARISH OF SHEERNESS**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS1
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(I),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath ZS1, between its junction with the passageway adjacent to No.38 William Rigby Drive to its junction with Danley Road from the 10th February 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen sooner.

The path is to be closed because surface improvement works are being carried out and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Melvyn Twycross
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR176 (PART) AT OFFHAM)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2014**

The above named Order made on 4th February 2014 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath MR176 which commences on Aldon Lane (U1480) at NGR TQ 6506 5776 (point A on the Order plan) and runs east-north-east through to north-north-east for 167 metres to NGR TQ 6519 5784 (point B on the Order plan). (Between points A-B on the Order plan). It will add a new length of public footpath MR176 with a width of 2.0 metres, which commences on Aldon Lane (U1480) at NGR TQ 6507 5784 (point C on the Order plan), 80 metres north of the aforementioned point A, and runs east for 116 metres to the aforementioned point B. (Between points C-B on the Order plan).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: 01622 696871) (email: maria.mclauchlan@kent.gov.uk) not later than 16th March 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC77A (PART) AT CRANBROOK)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2014**

The above named Order made on 4th February 2014 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath WC77A which commences on Dig Dig Lane (C112) at NGR TQ 8228 3892 (point A on the Order plan) and runs north-north-west for 42 metres to NGR TQ 8227 3896 (point B on the Order plan). (Between the points A-B on the Order plan). It will add a new length of public footpath WC77A, with a width of 2.0 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs north-north-east for 30 metres (to NGR TQ 8230 3895, point C on the Order plan) and then west-north-west for 27 metres to the aforementioned point B. (Between the points A-C-B on the Order plan).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN11 2AB or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: 01622 696871) (email: maria.mclauchlan@kent.gov.uk) not later than 16th March 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 16th February 2014

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
on 03000 417171 (local rate) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



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HIGHWAYS – KENT

VARIOUS ROADS, KENT (EXCEPTIONAL WEATHER CONDITIONS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER FEBRUARY 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public due to the exceptional weather conditions, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads throughout Kent.

Roads have been closed, and in future may be closed, as and when the need arises, with little prior notice, for indefinite periods.

Closures are indicated by signage and barriers on site. Every effort will be made to try and maintain as much access as possible when it is safe to do so.

Closures are necessary for such things as flooding, carriageway damage, landslides and subsidence, clearance of fallen trees, and any other weather-related events that make roads unsafe for use by vehicles.

It is not possible to say how long any given road will be closed, but every effort will be made to re-open roads once it is safe to do so.

Those roads that are closed due to flooding are likely to remain closed whilst periods of heavy rainfall continue, and until excess water in surrounding areas has drained away.

Kent County Council will endeavour to ensure that details of roads closures are publicised, but details change on a daily and sometimes even hourly basis.

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

NEW ROAD HILL, BONNINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow access to the overhead phone cable network to provide a new customer service, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of New Road Hill, Bonnington.

Closures are planned to commence from 18 February 2014 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day

New Road Hill will be closed from the junction with Cherry Orchard Lane southwards for approximately 220 metres.

The alternative route is via New Road Hill, B2067 Bonnington Road and Boat Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (OAK GROVE LANE, HIGH HALDEN) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 124 and Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to prohibit goods vehicles with a gross weight exceeding 7.5t from using Oak Grove Lane, High Halden, with certain exemptions for local buses and restricted classes of other vehicles.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 24/02/2014, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO.6 ORDER 2014

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to reduce the speed limit on Oak Grove Lane to 30mph; on the A28 between High Halden and Tenterden to 40mph; and on the A262 between the A28 and Woolpack Corner, Biddenden to 40mph and 50mph.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 24/02/2014, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

A2042 ROMNEY MARSH ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to improve road surface markings, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A2042 Romney Marsh Road, Ashford.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 4 March 2014 for 2 nights, from 21:00 hours through until 06:00 hours each night.

Romney Marsh Road will be closed between the junctions with A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road and B2229 Norman Road / Kimberley Way (Outlet Centre).

The alternative route is via A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road, Willesborough Interchange, A292 Hythe Road, Mace Lane, Wellesley Road, Station Road, A2042 Beaver Road and Romney Marsh Road.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

B2205 CHESTFIELD ROAD, SWALECLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER FEBRUARY 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable rectification works to be carried out to the CCTV on the bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of B2205 Chestfield Road, Swalecliffe.

Chestfield Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 17 February 2014 for up to 3 nights, between 21:00 hours through until 06:00 hours each night.

The alternative route is via A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, B2205 Greenhill Bridge Road, Sea Street, Whitstable Road, Colewood Road and St John's Road.

CHURCH LANE, WESTBERE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Church Lane, Westbere.

A closure is planned to commence from 17 February 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

Church Lane, Westbere will be closed in the vicinity of All Saints' Church.

The alternative route is via Westbere Lane, Bushey Hill Road, A2 Island Road and Staines Hill.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

STOUR STREET & HOSPITAL LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on sections of Stour Street and Hospital Lane, Canterbury, on or after 3 March 2014.

STOUR STREET will be closed from 3 March 2014 for up to 2 weeks.

The closure is from the entrance to Temple Mews to the junction with Adelaide Place

HOSPITAL LANE will be closed from 17 March 2014 for up to 2 weeks.

The road will be closed for its entire

The alternative through route for both closures is via Stour Street, Beer Cart Lane, Watling Street, A28 Rhodaus Town, Pin Hill, Castle Street and Rosemary Lane

The dates for the closures are approximate and may vary according to progress with the works, as well as ground and weather conditions.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open either road outside the working hours

HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

HIGH CROSS ROAD AND WESTWOOD ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because BT require access for cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Cross Road and Westwood Road, on or after 19 February 2014 between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30hrs for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed as follows:

High Cross Road: from the junction Betsham Road to the junction of Whitehall Road.

Westwood Road: from the junction with Hook Green to the junction of Betsham Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Hook Green Road, Dale Road and Betsham Road.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

ALKHAM ROAD, KEARSNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Alkham Road, Kearsney.

Alkham Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 3 March 2014 for up to 5 nights, from 21:30 hours through until 05:30 hours each night.

The alternative route is via Alkham Road, Lower Road (Temple Ewell), High Street and London Road.

CHERRY TREE AVENUE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit northbound traffic on part of Cherry Tree Avenue, Dover.

Cherry Tree Avenue will be closed to northbound traffic (i.e. towards Barton Road) between the junctions with Balfour Road and Barton Road.

A closure is planned to commence from 17 February 2014 for up to 5 days.

The alternative route for northbound traffic is via A256 London Road and Buckland Avenue. Traffic from Balfour Road will be unable to turn right and will need to follow the diversion.

Southbound traffic is unaffected.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

A further closure is likely, timed for school holidays, to be advised once dates confirmed.

CORNWALL ROAD, WALMER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cornwall Road, Walmer.

A closure is planned to commence from 17 February 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

Cornwall Road will be closed between the junctions with Dover Road and Downs Road.

The alternative route is via A258 Dover Road, The Strand, Gifford Road, Park Avenue, Mill Road and Hamilton Road.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

A258 SANDWICH ROAD, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of junction modifications and road resurfacing as part of a new housing development, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A258 Sandwich Road, Sholden, Deal.

A258 Sandwich Road will be closed between the junctions with Betteshanger Road and Sholden New Road.

There will be no through access between Deal and Sandwich using the A258 –

Overnight closures are planned for the 4 nights of 20, 21, 24 and 25 February 2014, from 19:30 hours through to 04:00 hours each night.

The alternative route is via A258 Sandwich Road, Hacklinge Hill, Deal Road, A256 Sandwich Road, Eastry Bypass, Dover Road, Whitfield Bypass, A2 Trunk Road, A258 Deal Road, Dover Road, The Strand, Ranelagh

Road, Prince Of Wales Terrace, Broad Street, Queen Street and London Road.

WENDERTON LANE, WINGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance works on water supply pipes, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Wenderton Lane, Wingham.

A closure is planned to commence from 17 February 2014 for up to 3 days.

Wenderton Lane will be closed between the junctions with Preston Hill and Hearts Delight Lane.

The alternative route is via Preston Hill and Hearts Delight Lane.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

TRAFALGAR ROAD, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL TRAFALGAR ROAD, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because Clancy Docwra requires access to excavate the carriageway to enable the construction of a pumping station, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Trafalgar Road, Gravesend, on or after 31st March 2014 for up to 40 days or until the works have been completed

The road will be closed between the junctions of Nine Elms Lane and Darnley Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Nine Elms Lane and Darnley Road.

The alternative route is via Trafalgar Rd -Nine Elms Grove-Arthur Street-(eastbound) – Wrotham Road (southbound)- Old Road West-(westbound)-Darnley Road.

GREEN FARM LANE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because BT require safe access to underground structure for cabling works for new customer connection., Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Green Farm Lane, Shorne, Gravesend on or after 3rd March 2014 between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Lower Road to the junction with Burdett Avenue.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, Church Lane and Gravesend Road.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

HEATHFIELD ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to electricity power cables, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Heathfield Road, Maidstone, on or after 18 February 2014 for up to 6 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Boxley Road and Penenden Heath Road.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

A259 CHERITON ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable a detailed inspection of the railway bridge to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A259 Cheriton Road, Folkestone.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

Cheriton Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with no through access between the junctions with Castle Hill Avenue and Radnor Park Road.

An overnight closure is planned for Tuesday 4 March 2014 from 22:00 hours through until 06:00 hours. The alternative routes are

Northbound via A2034 Cheriton Road, Foresters Way, Grace Hill, A2033 Foord Road North and A259 Radnor Park Road

Southbound via A259 Radnor Park Road, Pavilion Road, Black Bull Road, A2033 Foord Road North, New Street, Bradstone Road, Dover Road, Grace Hill, Shellons Street, Middelburg Square, A2034 Cheriton Gardens, A259 Shorncliffe Road and Castle Hill Avenue

There will be a suspension of the Order that prevents right turns from the northbound carriageway of Castle Hill Avenue into Cheriton Road.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

OAKLANDS AVENUE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to relay a sewer, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Oaklands Avenue, Broadstairs.

Oaklands Avenue will be closed between the junctions with Ranelagh Grove and Warren Drive, with no through access.

A closure is planned to commence from 3 March 2014 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Street, A255 Broadstairs Road, Green Lane and Warren Drive.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (POTHOLE REPAIRS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MARCH 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow carriageway patching works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in the Thanet area, on or after 3 March 2014.

The roads affected, planned dates and times of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

KING EDWARD ROAD, BIRCHINGTON – closed in the vicinity of the junction with Canterbury Road

3 March 2014 – 1 day between 09:30 hours and 15:00 hours

Alternative route via Canterbury Road, Quex View Road and Brunswick Road

THE PASSAGE, MARGATE – closed for its entire length, also including access to Sea Court

4 March 2014 – 2 days between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*

BROCKENHURST ROAD, RAMSGATE – closed in the vicinity of the junction with Victoria Parade

4 March 2014 – 2 days between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day. Alternative route via B2054 Victoria Parade, Lyndhurst Road and Queens Road

WINTERSTOKE WAY, RAMSGATE – closed for its entire length (between Dumpton Park Drive and Winterstoke Crescent)

10 March 2014 – 2 days between 08:30 hours and 16:00 hours each day

The alternative route is Dumpton Park Drive, Thanet Road, B2054 Victoria Parade and Winterstoke Crescent

RODNEY STREET, RAMSGATE – closed between properties number 1 and number 43

24 March 2014 – 3 days between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day

The alternative routes are

Northbound via Addington Street and West Cliff Road

Southbound via West Cliff Road, Royal Road, Townley Street and Addington Street.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



UPPER DUMPTON PARK ROAD, RAMSGATE – closed between the junctions with Boundary Road and St Luke's Avenue

17 March 2014 – 5 weekdays, between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day

Alternative route via A255 Boundary Road, Hardres Road and St Luke's Avenue

MILL ROW, BIRCHINGTON – closed in the vicinity of Canterbury Road, also affecting access to Mill Lane

31 March 2014 – 3 days between 09:30 hours and 15:00 hours each day

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*.

For those roads that are *cul-de-sacs*, every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible when safe to do so, but some delays are inevitable.

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

CHURCH ROAD, OFFHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new gas service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Offham, on or after 17 February 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Church Farm.

The alternative route is via A20 London Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane and Teston Road.

PILGRIMS WAY, WROTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing after a vehicle fire, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Wrotham, on or after 4 March 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A20 London Road to Nepicar Lane.

The alternative route is via A20 London Road and Nepicar Lane.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

NEILL'S ROAD, LAMBERHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT overhead cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Neill's Road, Lamberhurst, on or after 18 February 2014 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Free Heath Road to Hoghole Lane.

The alternative route is via Free Heath Road, Sleepers Stile Road, Sweetings Lane and Hoghole Lane.

SOMERSET ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for a crane to lift a temporary classroom into Skinners School, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Somerset Road, on or after 8 March 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A26 St John's Road to Mereworth Road.

The alternative route is via A26 St John's Road, East Cliff Road and Mereworth Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 16th February 2014

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Kent County Council as Local Authority

THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF GARLINGE PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Garlinge (Community) Primary School & Nursery, Westfield Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 5PA from 1 September 2014.

It is proposed to enlarge the school to provide 120 places per year group, taking the total capacity of the school to 840. The school would admit 120 children into Year R in September 2014 and subsequent years, growing over a seven year period to reach a total capacity of 840 in September 2020.

The current capacity of the school is 630 and the proposed capacity will be 840. The current admission number of the school is 90 and the proposed admission number will be 120.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3SS. Copies are also available at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Marisa White, Area Education Officer at the address above or email: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk. The closing date for objections and comments is 16 March 2014.

Signed: Patrick Leeson,
Corporate Director
Education, Learning & Skills

Publication Date: 16 February 2014



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010, PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREA) ACT 1990 – SECTION 67. NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 (3) AND 13 (4) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT.

Proposed development at NEWNHAM COURT SHOPPING CENTRE, BEARSTED ROAD, KENT

I give notice that Land Securities Plc.

has applied to the MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Full planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of site to provide new retail development comprising food store (A1), department store (A1), replacement garden centre (A1), general A1 retail units, A3 cafes/restaurants and A3 conversion of existing oasthouse with associated highway works, closing up of existing site access, formation of new access via New Cut Roundabout and Newnham Park spine road, associated earthworks, parking and landscaping.

And that the application is accompanied by an environmental statement. The proposed development would affect the setting of a listed building, is a major development as defined in Article 2 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010, and does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in Maidstone Borough Council.

Application reference MA/13/1931

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application and environmental statement on the Council's website via www.maidstone.gov.uk or at our Reception at Maidstone Gateway, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ (Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm, Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm) excluding Bank Holidays.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement from Mr J Buckwell, DHA Environment, Eclipse House, Eclipse Park, Sittingbourne Road, Maidstone ME14 3EN (e-mail info@dhaenvironment.co.uk or telephone: 01622 776226 so long as stocks last, at a charge of £300 for a paper copy of the full ES including appendices, printed ES without appendices £50, printed non-technical summary, singularly or in addition to the above, FREE, and £25 for a CD copy of the full ES with appendices.

Anyone who wishes to make representation about this application should do so via the link on the Council's website www.maidstone.gov.uk or write to the Council, quoting reference MA/13/1931, at:-

Maidstone House,
King Street, Maidstone,
Kent. ME15 6JQ

By 6 March 2014



HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND AT EUROKENT, NEW HAINE ROAD, WESTWOOD, THANET, KENT

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 18 March 2014 at 11:30 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Eurokent, New Haine Road, Westwood, Thanet, Kent as shown edged red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrate's Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Hayley Church by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, by email hayley.church@kent.gov.uk, or by telephone 01622 696063 before 8 March 2014 quoting referencing number LS/21/103663/440.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Hayley Church using the contact details shown above.

JOHN BURR

DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund

Ashford Highway Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent TN24 8AD



PUBLIC NOTICE

Kent County Council as Local Authority

Proposed relocation of The Foreland (Community Special) School and proposed increase in designated number

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to The Foreland (Community Special) School, Lanthorne Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 3NX from 1 September 2015.

It is proposed to increase the designated number of The Foreland School from 160 to 200 (including nursery) and to relocate the school from its current site at Lanthorne Road, Broadstairs, to new purpose built accommodation at Pysons Road, Ramsgate (1.8 miles as the crow flies from the school's current site). The target date for occupation of the new school building is September 2015.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3SS. Copies of the complete proposal are also available at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Within four weeks from the date of the publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Marisa White at the above address or email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk. The closing date for sending in written representations is 16 March 2014.

Signed: Patrick Leeson,
Corporate Director,
Education, Learning & Skills

Publication Date: 16 February 2014



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Sampson: My battle with suicide and stroke agony

After leading Deal Town to FA Vase glory in 2000, Tommy Sampson was one of non-league football's most celebrated characters. But a stroke just seven years later would leave him a changed man. As he publishes a book on his life, he talks frankly to **Greg Miles** about his roller-coaster ride to recovery...

TOMMY Sampson is no stranger to the remarkable highs and lows life can throw at you.

From a life as a professional footballer, he perhaps enjoyed his greatest days in the sport as a manager; leading a host of the county's non-league outfits, and normally delivering success.

Few, for example, will forget the dominance of his Herne Bay and Deal Town teams.

Fewer still when he wrote the county into the record books after leading Deal to the FA Vase final, under the old twin towers of Wembley Stadium, and victory.

But just seven years later his life would take a dramatic turn after he suffered a stroke.

It left him with no movement in his left arm or leg. He became unable to deal with his emotions and afraid of the company of others.

It would spark a spiral of depression resulting in him making attempts to take his own life.

Now, however, he has documented his remarkable recovery, with the publication of *Sudden Exit*, a 225-page tale focusing on his daily struggles and how he came to cope with his limited mobility.

It also features diary entries from his partner, Sandie Wilson, pictures from years gone by, and his own thoughts he collated throughout his recovery.

From being unable to tell the time, read, or write in a straight line, he has recovered to the point where he could write the book in longhand before it was transcribed onto a computer.

"When I came home in 2008 I was mentally shot away. I had lost my football and golf and I couldn't get out of bed," said the 59-year-old. I was sat here depressed and wanted to kill myself. I wanted to end it all.

"I was mentally shot away. I had lost my football and golf and I couldn't get out of bed. I was sat here depressed; I just wanted to kill myself, to end it all."

Tommy Sampson,
on his return from hospital

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ROUTE TO WEMBLEY: HOW DEAL TOWN LIFTED FA VASE



GLORY: The Deal Town team who triumphed in the last FA Vase final staged at the old Wembley Stadium

ROUND 1

Eastleigh 3-4 Deal Town

ROUND 2

Deal Town 3-0 East Preston

ROUND 3

Deal Town 2-1 Watton United

ROUND 4

Crook Town 0-3 Deal Town

ROUND 5

Metropolitan Police 2-5 Deal Town

QUARTER-FINAL

Deal Town 3-1 Mossley

SEMI-FINAL - FIRST LEG

Newcastle Town 0-2 Deal Town

SECOND LEG

Deal Town 1-1 Newcastle Town

FINAL

Deal Town 1-0 Chippenham Town

"This has been a battle I'm still fighting. I can't give up, although psychologically I've beaten it."

Southwark-born Sampson started his professional career with Millwall, but became a favourite with Dartford where he spent the majority of his playing career.

He then managed the Darts, Herne Bay, Tonbridge Angels, Deal, Ashford Town, Boreham Wood and Redhill where he was at the time of his stroke in 2007.

"Afterwards, I couldn't read the pa-

per, I couldn't read a book because I was left with irregular eye movement. I would jump from the first to the 10th line and I'd write sideways.

"My brain couldn't work out a straight line. I couldn't work numbers out, I couldn't tell the time.

"They gave me clock faces as an exercise and I would have to fill the hands in, but I couldn't do it. I would say 'It's 1.50pm', but Sandie would say 'It's not, it's 4.45pm'.

"At the end of the day I could have been a vegetable, but I've done my

exercises. I know that's the only way back – to work hard.

"When they bury me, if they put on my headstone 'he's a pro', that would do me. My attention to detail won me leagues and cup finals, because I knew a bit about everybody.

"My attention to detail with my stroke, like doing my exercises and the little things, has helped.

"I'm astonished at my own recovery because everybody wrote me off – the doctors, the consultants – they thought it might be beyond me.

"I couldn't read a book because I was left with irregular eye movement. I would jump from the first to the 10th line and I'd write sideways"

Tommy Sampson,
on his struggles with daily life

"The book is the greatest achievement I've ever had. People will say 'Oh he's a big head, an arrogant so and so', but that has got me through."

He admits writing the book has, in itself, aided his recovery process.

"My doctor said to me 'Tom I can't give you any more medicine, but I can give you advice; you've got to have a project'," he said.

"The doctor said 'Tom you're a football man, write about it, and your stroke because your an expert'.

"I would come down in the mornings and it would be 8.45am. I would look at the clock and think how would I get through the next 12 hours.

"I couldn't even make a cup of tea.

"It helped me fill my time. Sudden Exit became my project.

"I persevered with it and wrote the book in longhand. Sandie put it all on a PC and we added and amended it from there."

There was a time before then, however, when daily life was difficult to take for a man with such a competitive streak.

"When I came out of hospital none of my left side worked, I couldn't get up on a stick," he said.

"They bought a motorised wheelchair into my room and said 'here's your new legs' and I cried. I thought I was going to walk out of hospital.

"When you've lost all your independence I couldn't handle the thought of a motorised wheelchair.

"But even though I was crippled I didn't fit the criteria for an NHS wheelchair and had to buy my own for £200.

"Crying in bed in the morning is a hard pill to take. Something sad would come on the TV and I was in tears. I couldn't control my emotions.

"If someone said 'you look well' I would burst into tears. I was known as a hard man, I wouldn't suffer fools.

"I became a pain, a burden. My per-

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PRIDE: Tommy Sampson says the book is his greatest achievement outside of winning the FA Vase with Deal Town

sonality changed. I thought my life was over."

"I would take him to a very dark place. I used to wallow in self-pity and that's a killer," he said.

"I tried to strangle myself. It makes me laugh when I think about it now.

"I was so ashamed of myself I stopped. I turned all the gasses on and sat myself by the door. I was never going to kill myself like that.

"I used to Google what the consequences were of an overdose on such and such a pill. That was the attention to detail again.

"It was pathetic.

"I was thinking 'What will my daughters think?' I was that low my logic was I was just a burden to everybody."

A turning point came when he made it to the funeral of a friend.

"I went to a funeral for a great friend of mine, Harry Richardson, in February 2009," he said.

"I was still in a wheelchair. They wheeled me into the church and all my friends hadn't seen me. I spent four hours in their company. I couldn't have done that six months before. It made me turn a corner."

The truth is you could never keep a man like Sampson down.

He and his larger-than-life personality, along with the Deal Town squad of 1999/2000 entered Kent footballing folklore for their FA Vase final win over Chippenham Town in front of more than 20,000 fans at the old Wembley Stadium.

"For me, and quite a number of our players, it was too high a stage to then go back in front of 150 people when you've managed in front of



"I used to Google what would happen if I took an overdose of such and such a pill. That was the attention to detail again. It was pathetic"

Tommy Sampson,
on his battle with suicide

20,000," he said.

"One of my players, Terry Martin, retired as he came down the steps with the trophy. He said 'Tom that's enough for me'."

Weeks later his contract expired and the Deal dream was over.

It was a full-time job in those days and with no prospect of redeveloping the club's ground the investor, which had helped Sampson create a powerful Kent League outfit, pulled out.

"He wanted to build a stand with 500 seats and in-house facilities. But the council wouldn't let him," Sampson remembers.

"He said, 'I can't put money into this club if it isn't going to go anywhere'.

"They always told me in hospital 'don't look back', but how can I blot all that from my mind? It's helped me.

"What's made me get through is the person I was; the arrogant, belligerent attention to detail person I was.

"Outside of Wembley this is the greatest achievement of my life."

He has one aim if the book sells well.

"I will get pennies in royalties. If it were financially successful I've got one major ambition," he said.

"I want to set up the Tommy Sampson Stroke Foundation, to help people who've had a stroke. Because you don't realise you get forgotten about."

■ **Sudden Exit** by Tommy Sampson is published by Authorhouse and can be purchased for £12.95 (paperback) or £23.99 (hardback) from www.authorhouse.co.uk.

Ex-Gills star Rooney makes move to Maidstone United

MAIDSTONE United have pulled off a coup by signing former Gillingham midfielder Luke Rooney.

The 23-year-old came through the youth ranks at Priestfield and spent three years with the club before joining Swindon Town for an undisclosed fee in January 2012. He has struggled for first team football there and had loan spells away before leaving the Robins this winter.

"Being brutally honest I'd fallen out of love with the game in recent months and for someone who lived and breathed it when I was growing up that's difficult to admit," he said.

"I know some of the lads at Maidstone, came down to train and really, really enjoyed it. I've had several offers in recent weeks – some from league clubs, others in the Conference and a couple of Ryman clubs."



STONES: Rooney signs



EXPERIENCE: Chris Hunt joins

Hunt revs up to boost Kent Kings team

THE Kent Kings have bolstered their backroom staff by appointing former manager of the Isle of Wight Islanders, Chris Hunt.

Hunt will take up the position of team coach and assistant team manager with the Sittingbourne-based speedway side who race at Central Park.

He has spent the last four years as manager of the Islanders having previously been a rider including a spell with Iwade in 2005.

Team manager, John Sampford said: "There are many times that having an ex-rider to complement my manager's duties will be invaluable, especially with the younger team members."

Kedwell back in training after op

DANNY Kedwell has returned to training after recovering from his hernia operation.

The Gillingham striker has been unable to train for the last four weeks but was back with a ball at his feet on Thursday. He has not featured for the club since the defeat to Colchester on January 11.

Smith parts with Airwaves Racing

AIRWAVES Racing have lost the services of driver Aron Smith to Team BMR.

The Irishman has been an impressive member of the Wrotham-based team's British Touring Car Championship setup for the past few seasons, but will now drive alongside Alain Menu in a VW Passat CC.

Fuller exits Sochi after semi-finals

SLOPESTYLE snowboarder Aimee Fuller bowed out of the Winter Olympics in the semi-finals.

The 22-year-old, born in Farnborough, attempted a difficult double back flip on both of her runs in Sochi but failed to land either and finished ninth last Sunday. Her team-mate, Jenny Jones, went on to win bronze.

Blades visit rearranged for this week

GILLINGHAM'S home fixture against Sheffield United has been rearranged for this Wednesday.

The match against the Blades was originally to take place this Saturday,

February 15. However it has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 19 because of Sheffield's FA Cup fifth round clash against Nottingham Forest which takes place on Sunday.

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